

FAIRY TAIL

1



Hiro Mashima Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL



HIRO MASHIMA

Fairy Tail volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Hello!
To first-time readers...
To longtime readers...
To those who just realized
they bought the wrong book...
To those who are saying,
“Who’re you?” ...
I hope you have fun reading this.
This is a classic story of the
friendship between humans
and cats.
Yes.
I got in a lie right from the start!

—Hiro Mashima

Honorifics Explained

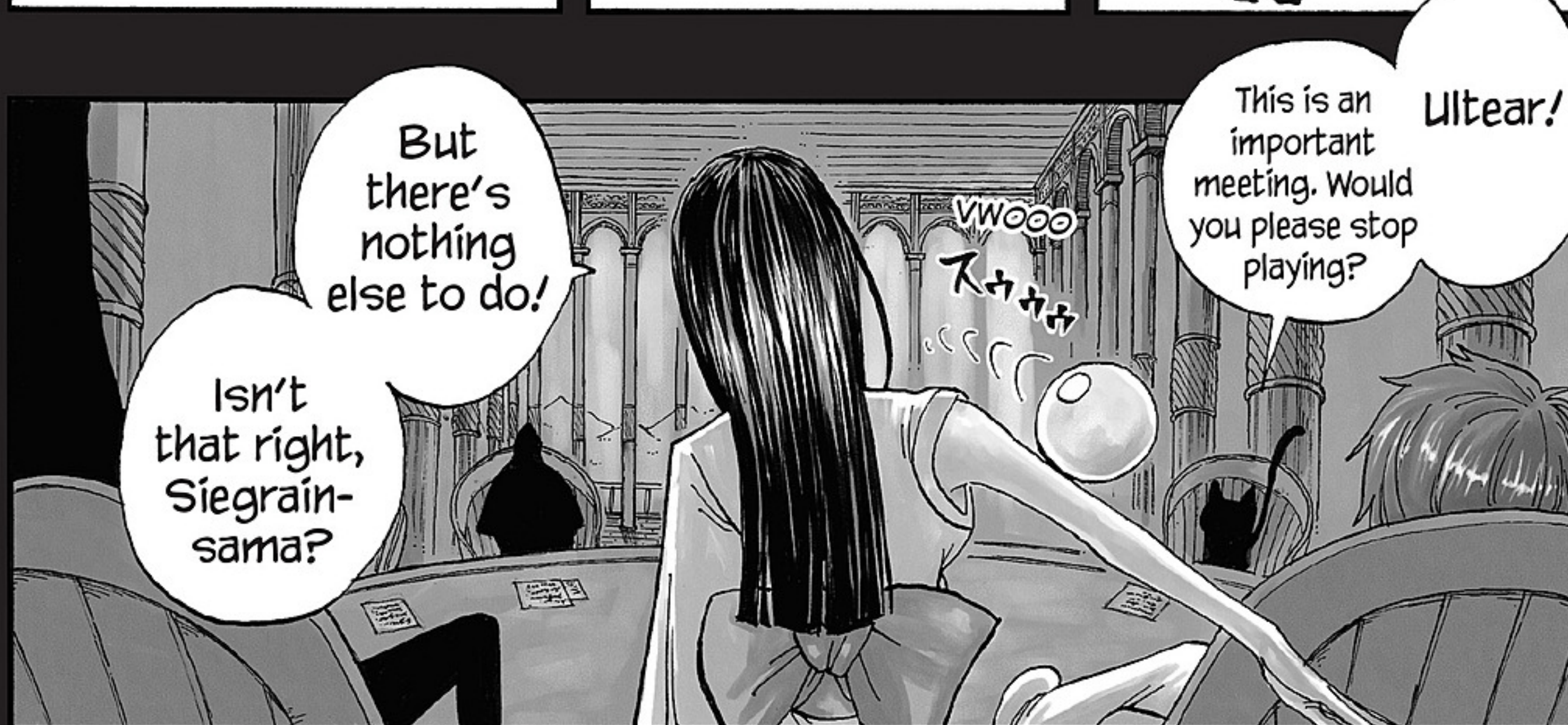
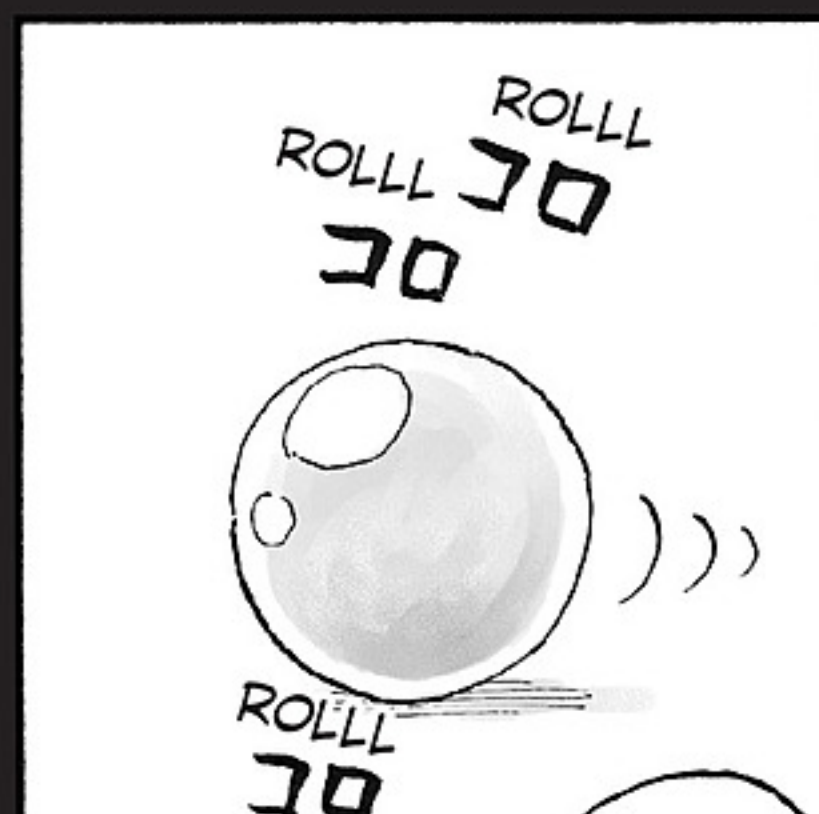
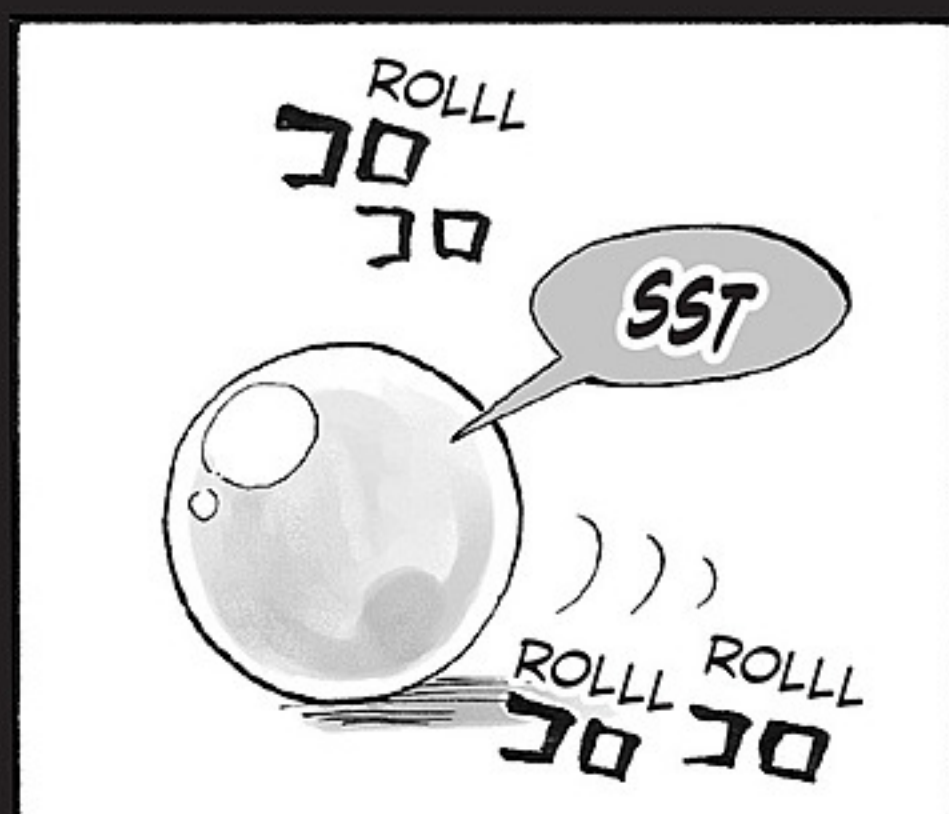
Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from honorifics in American English, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
- chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
- Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."
- Sempai/
Senpai:** This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
- Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
- Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
- [blank]:** This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.





The magical world is beset with a mountain of problems!

Sh-Shut your mouth!!

How did these young cretins get on the Council anyway?

Yes. Very little to do...

'Cause we've got killer magic, that's why. You old fart.

Wha-!!

And among them, the problem to be solved with the greatest speed concerns...

Will both of you be silent?!

But I hope somebody will stir up some trouble.

...those idiots at Fairy Tail!!

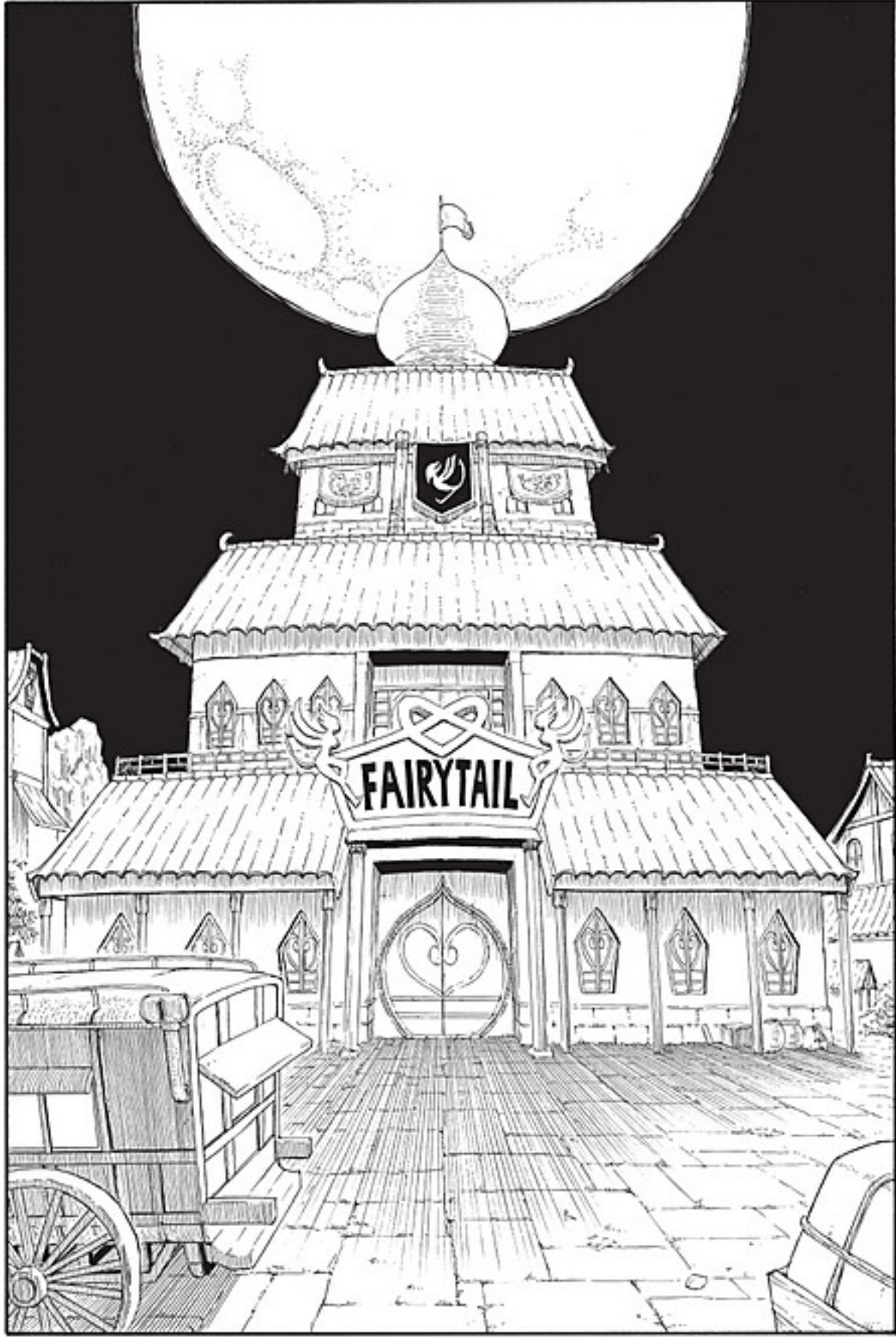
CHANG



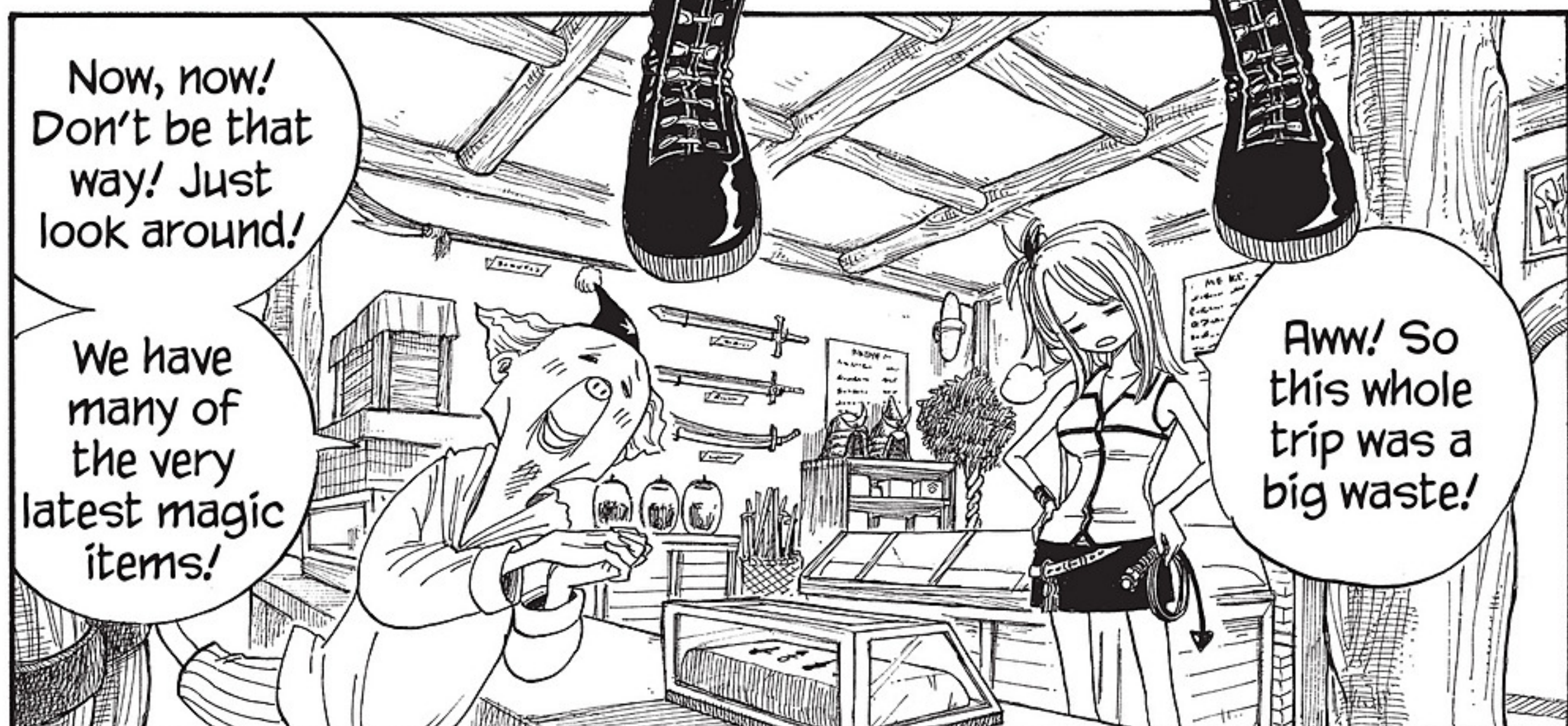
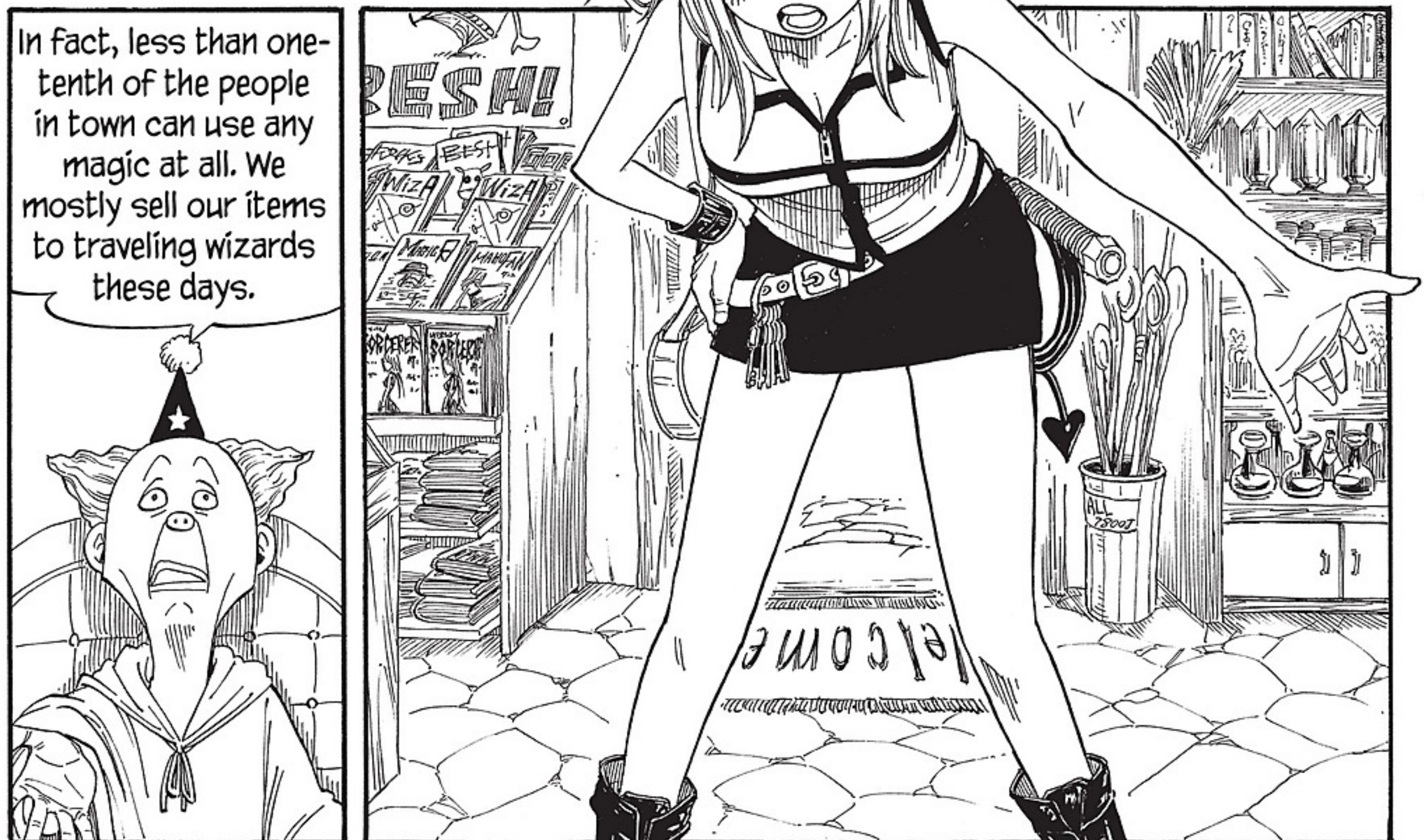
FAIRY TAIL

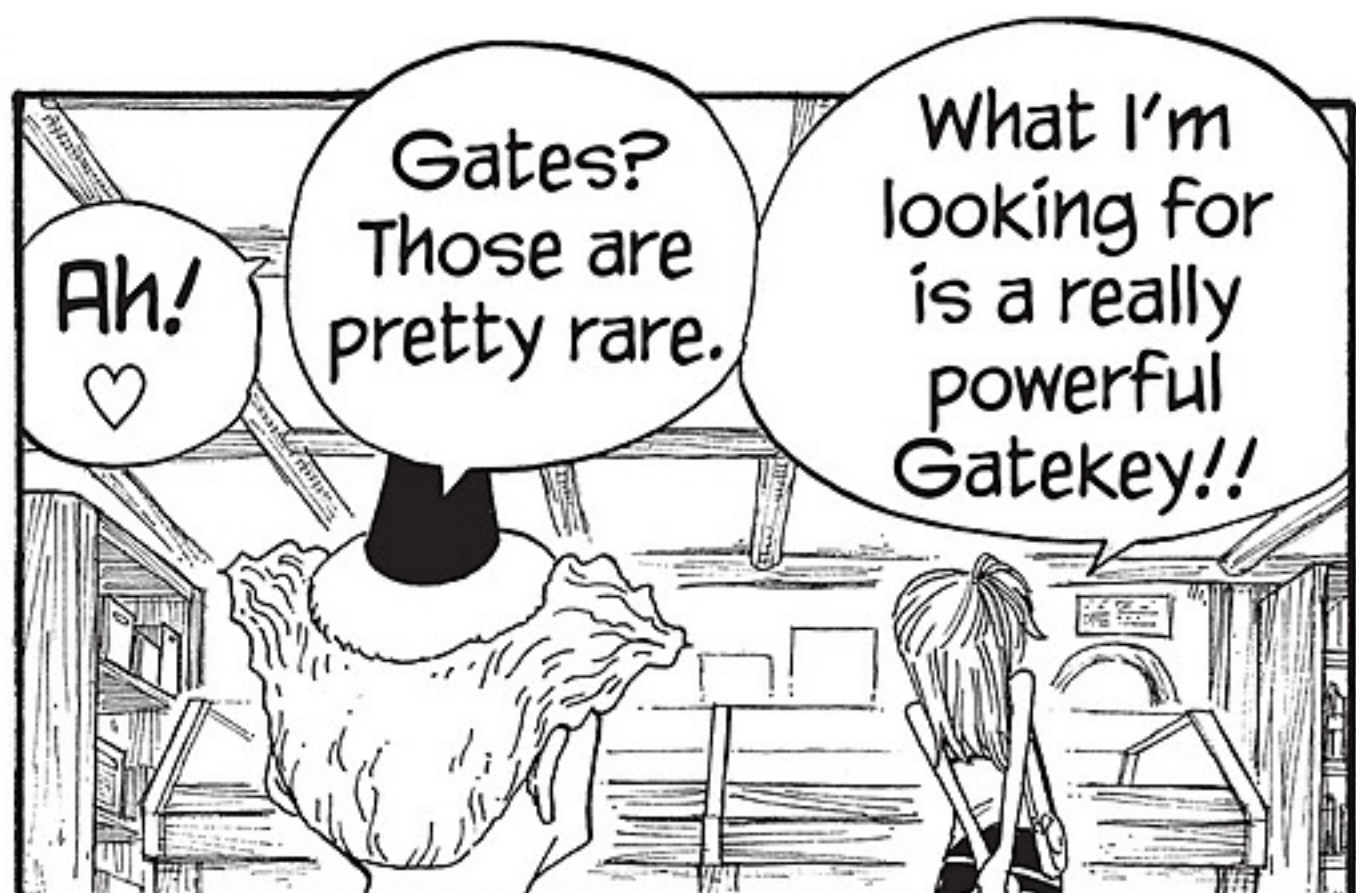
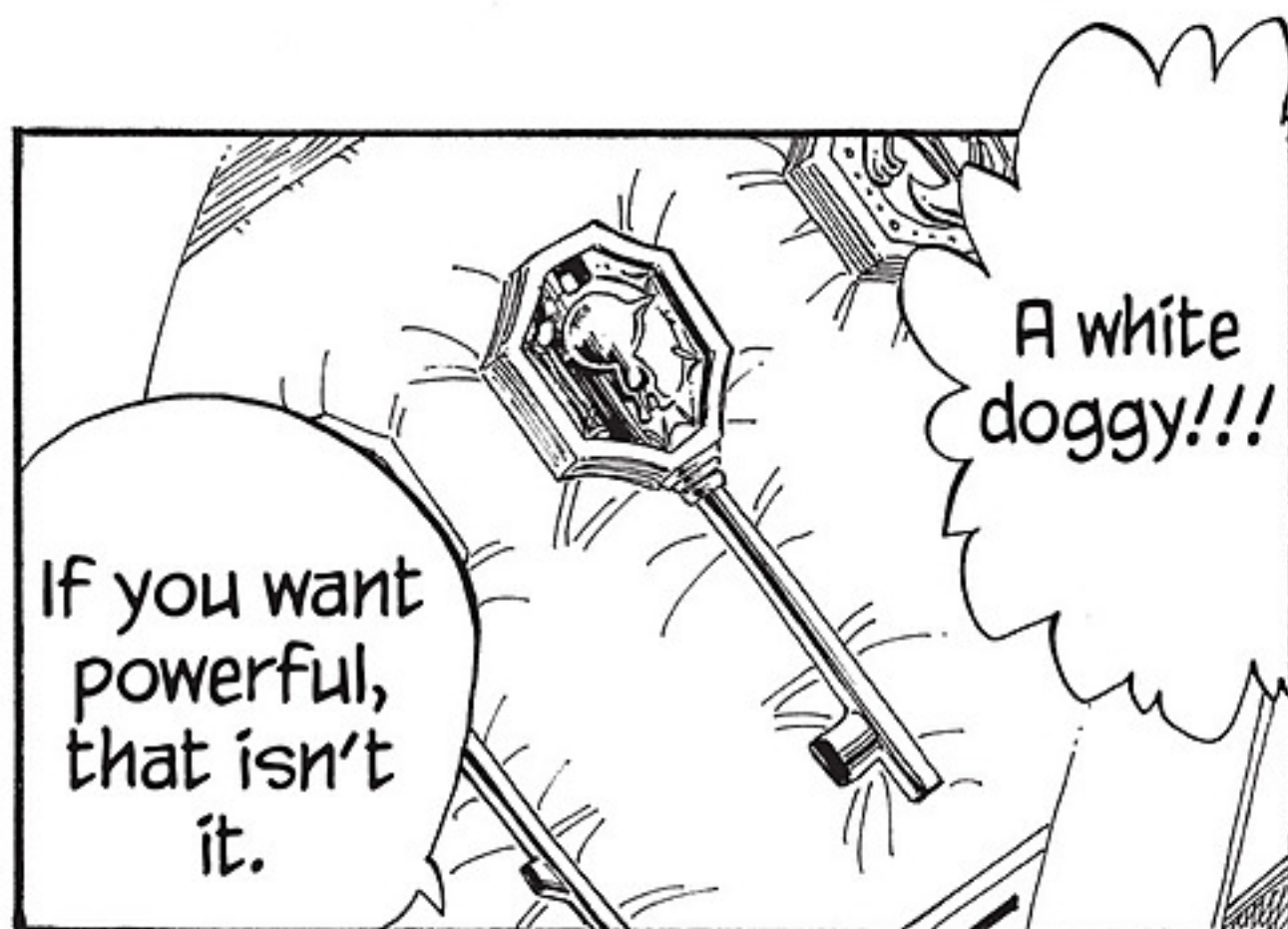


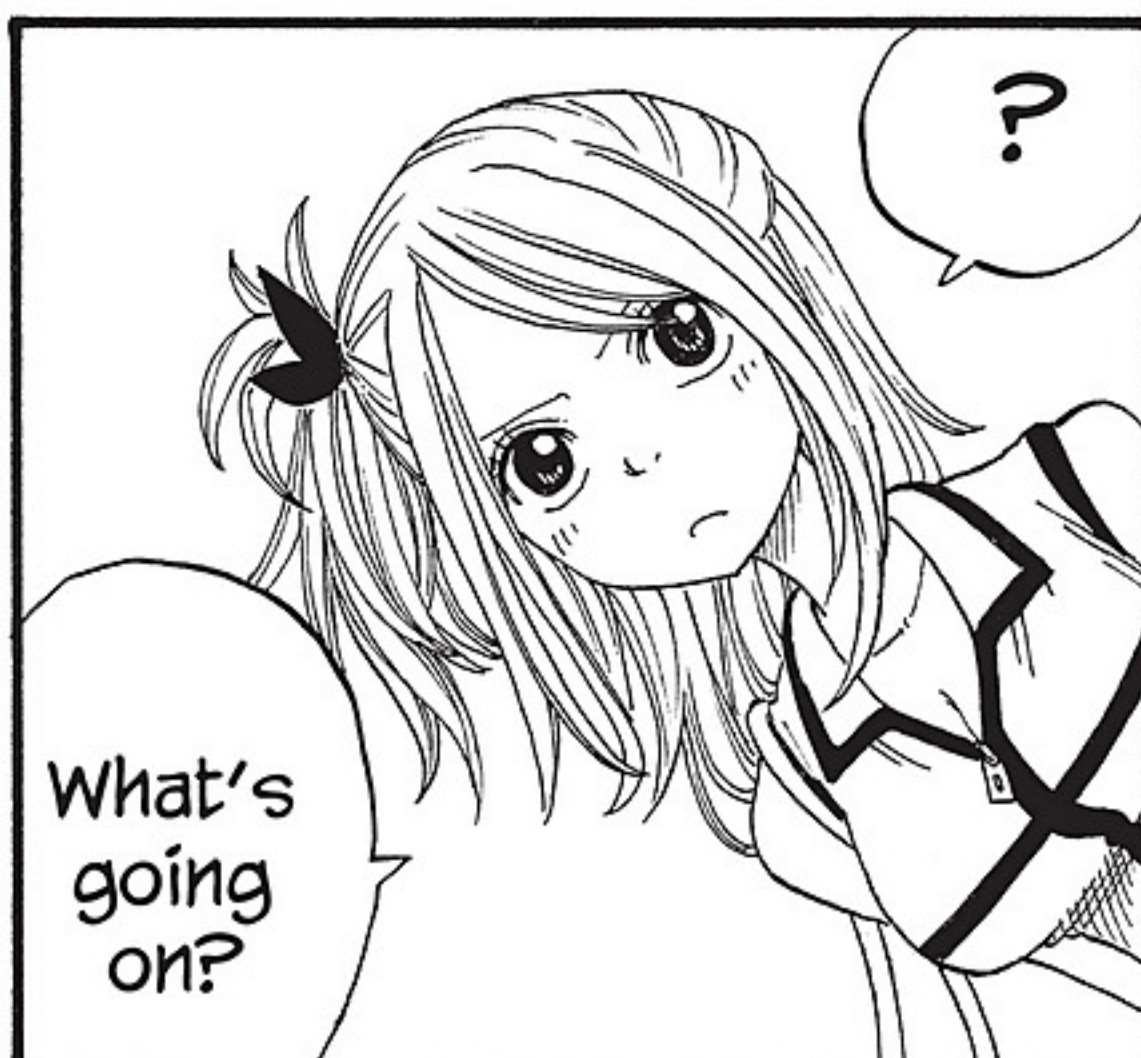
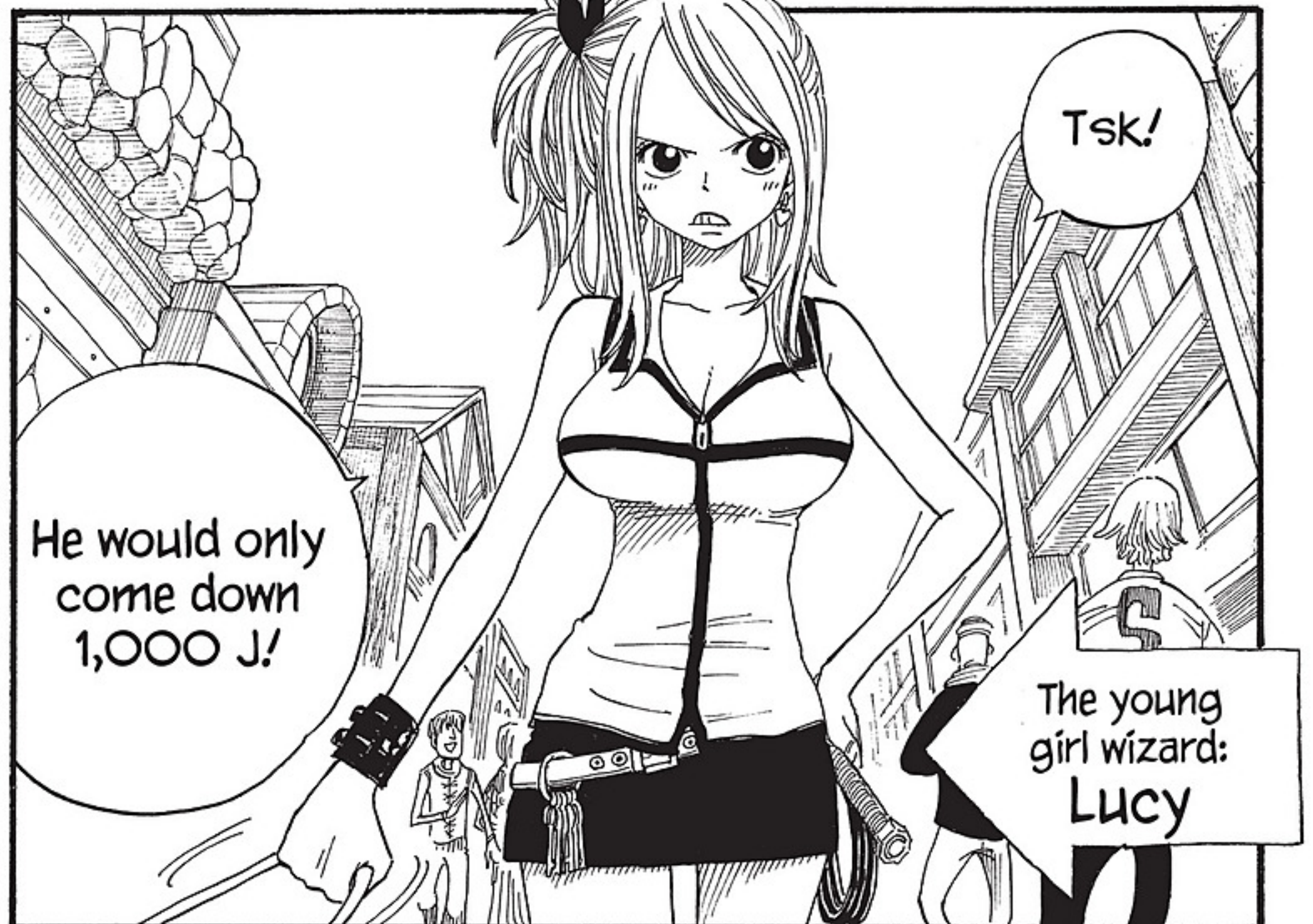
Chapter 1: The Fairy's Tail

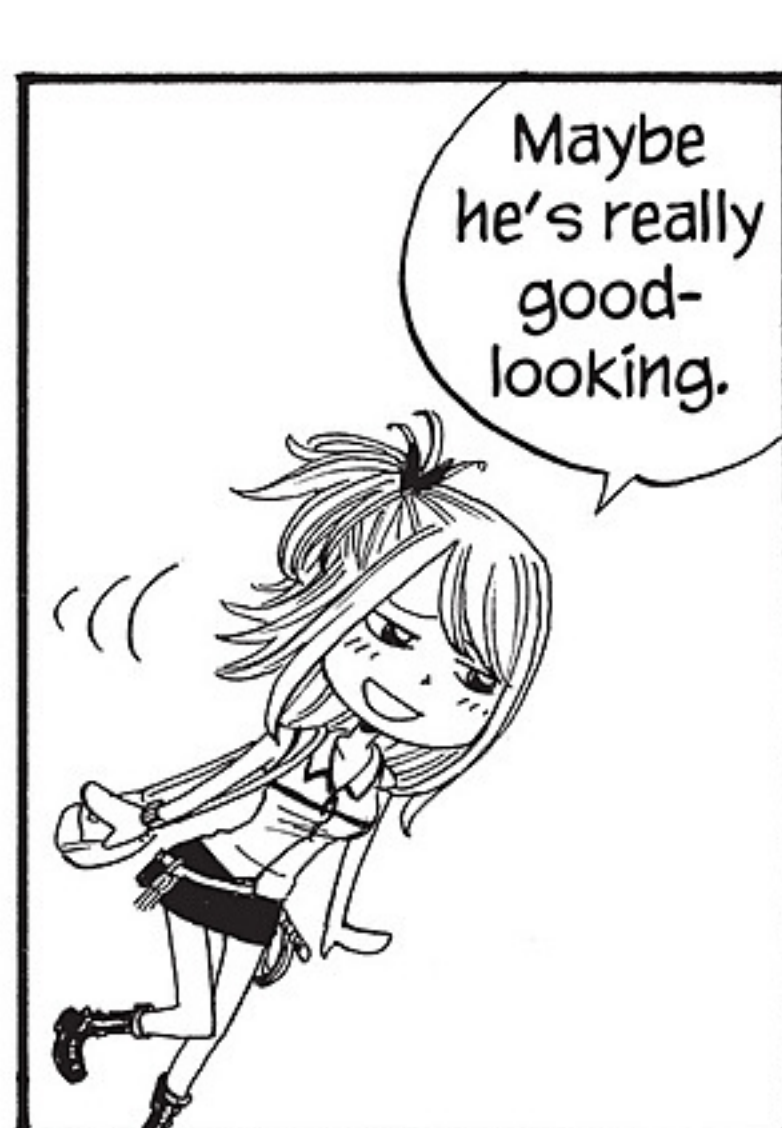
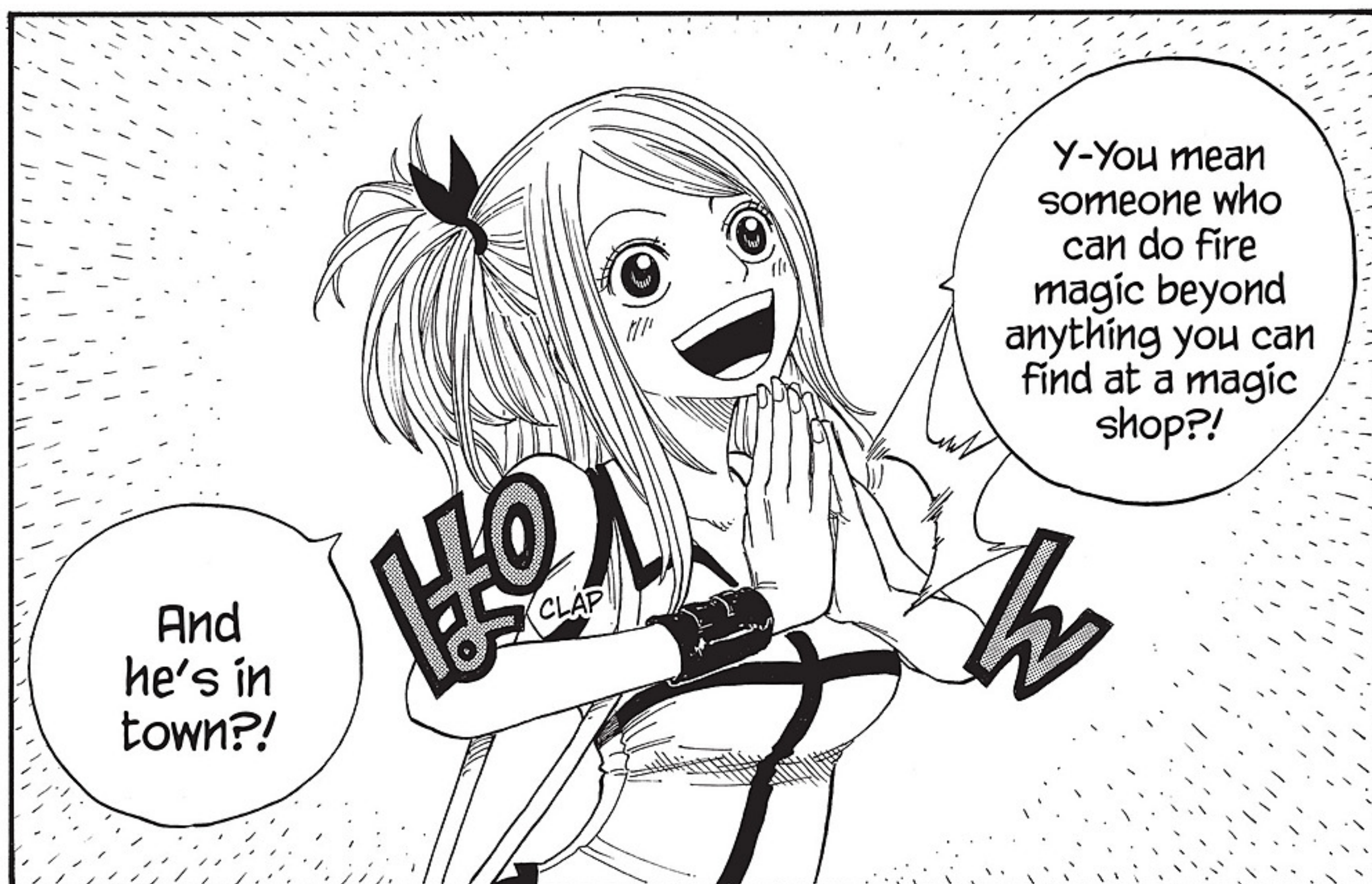
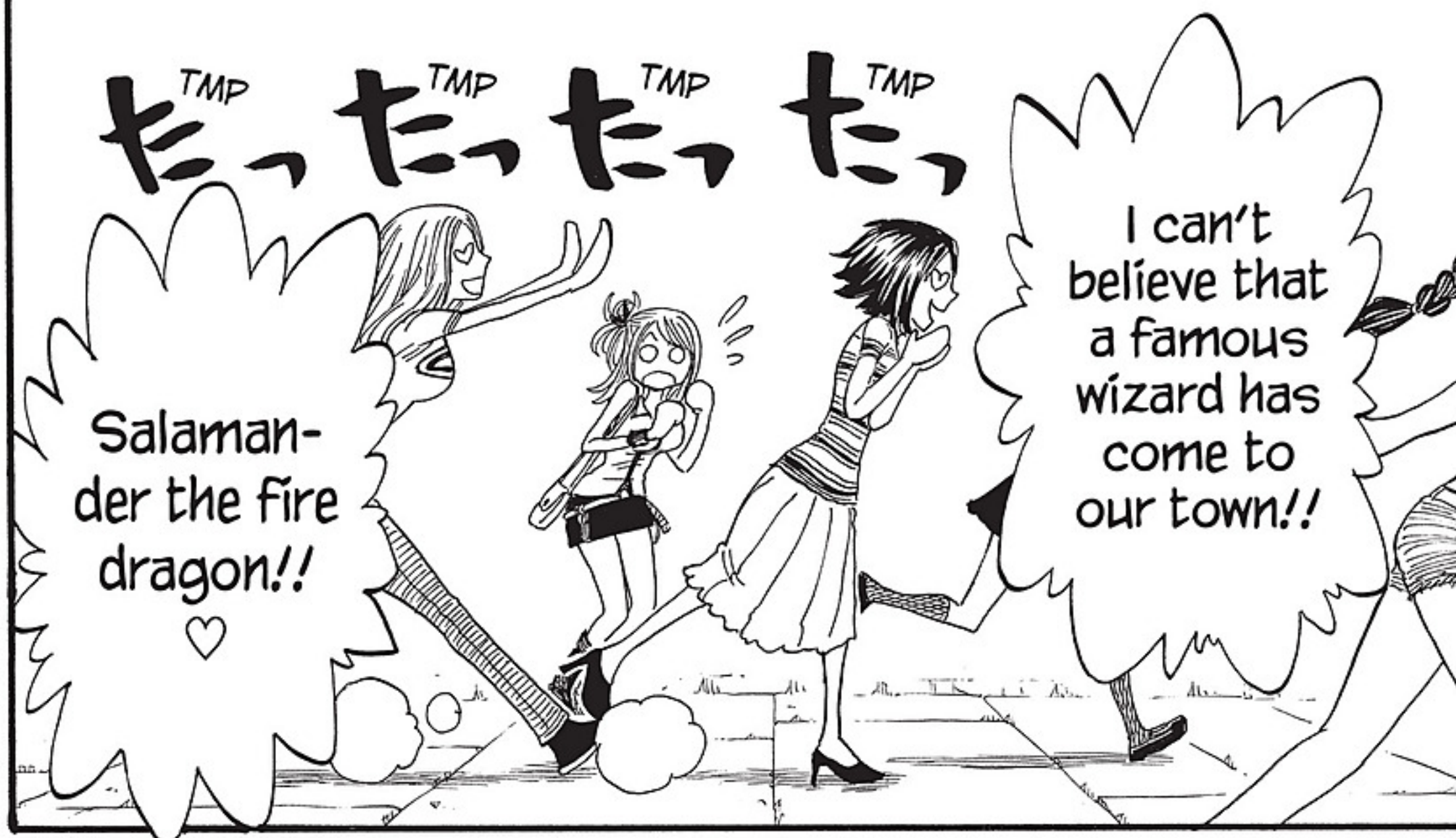


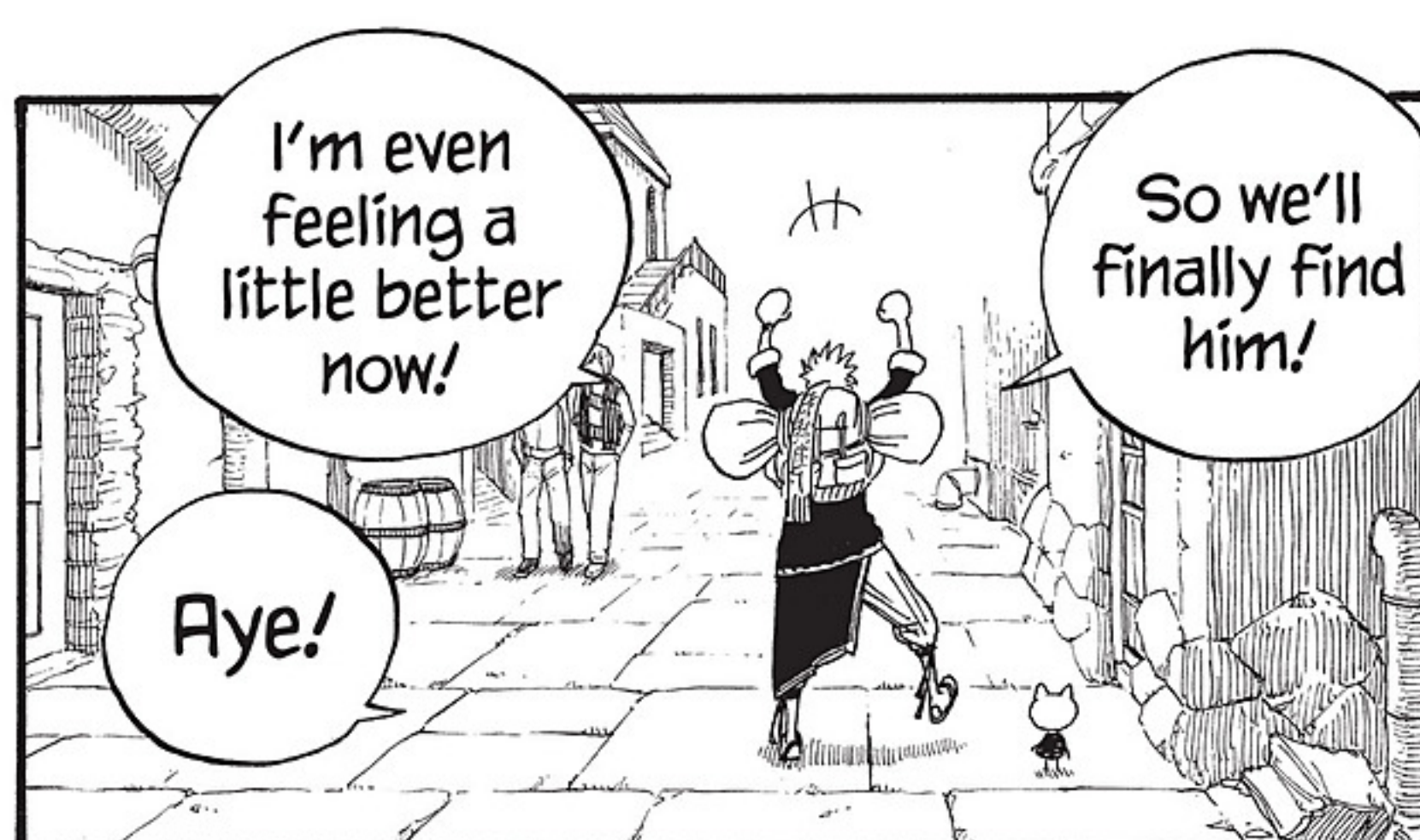


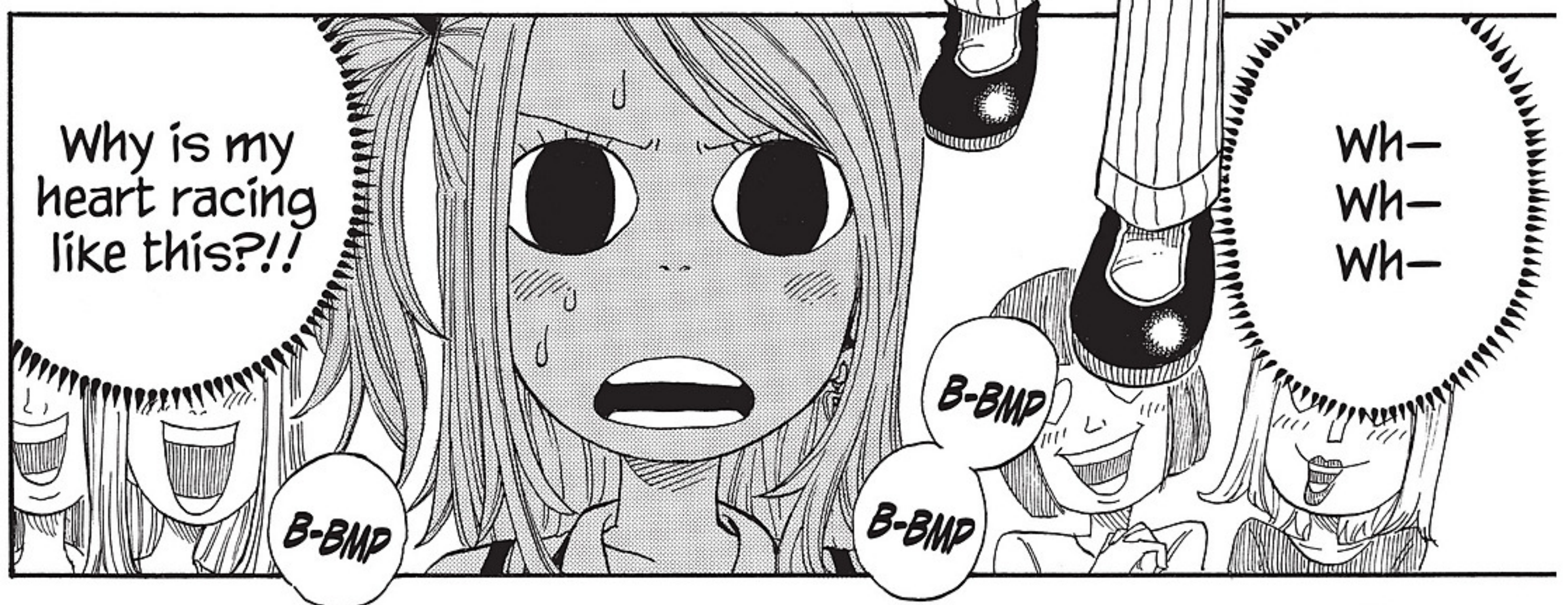


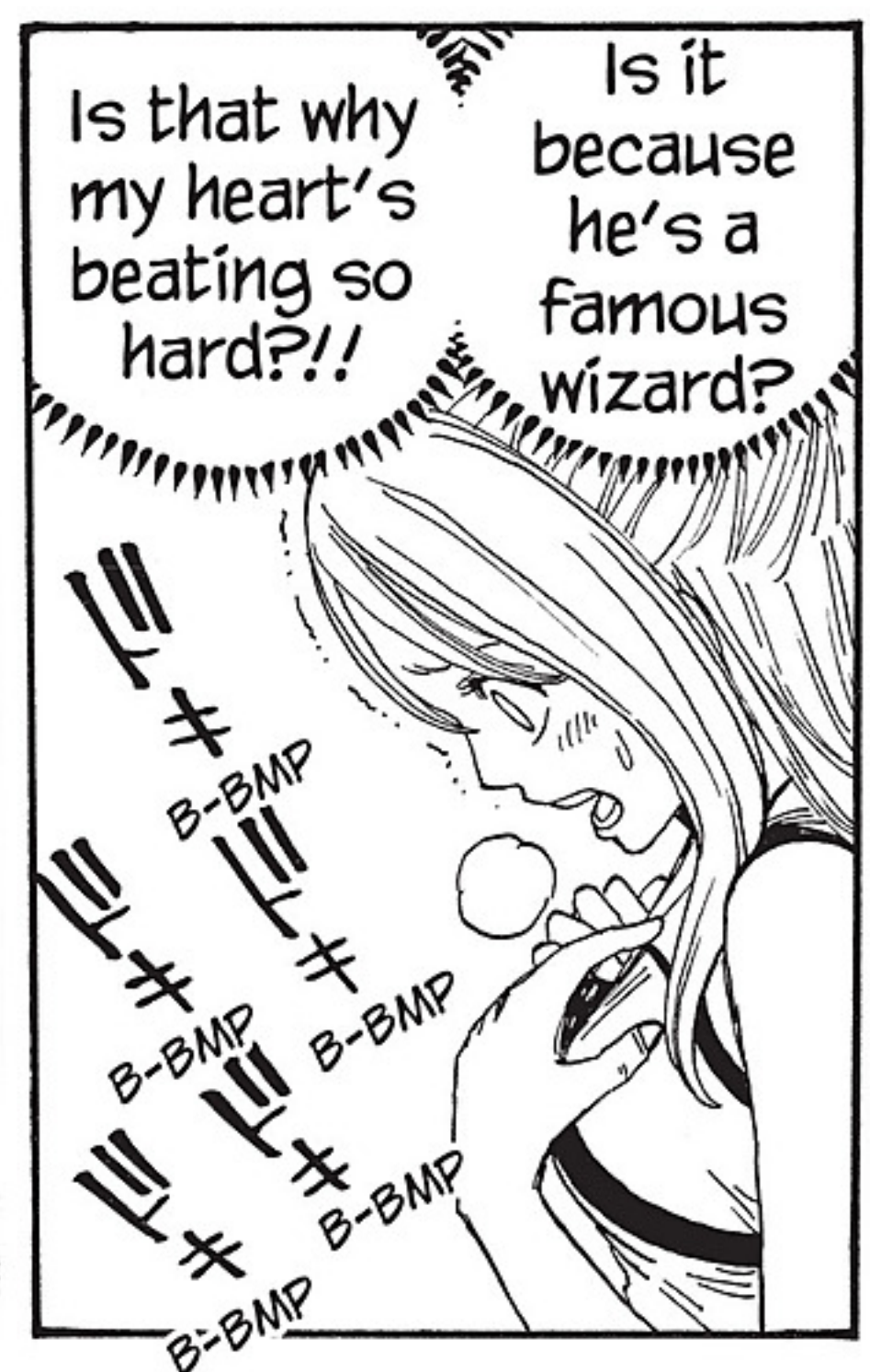
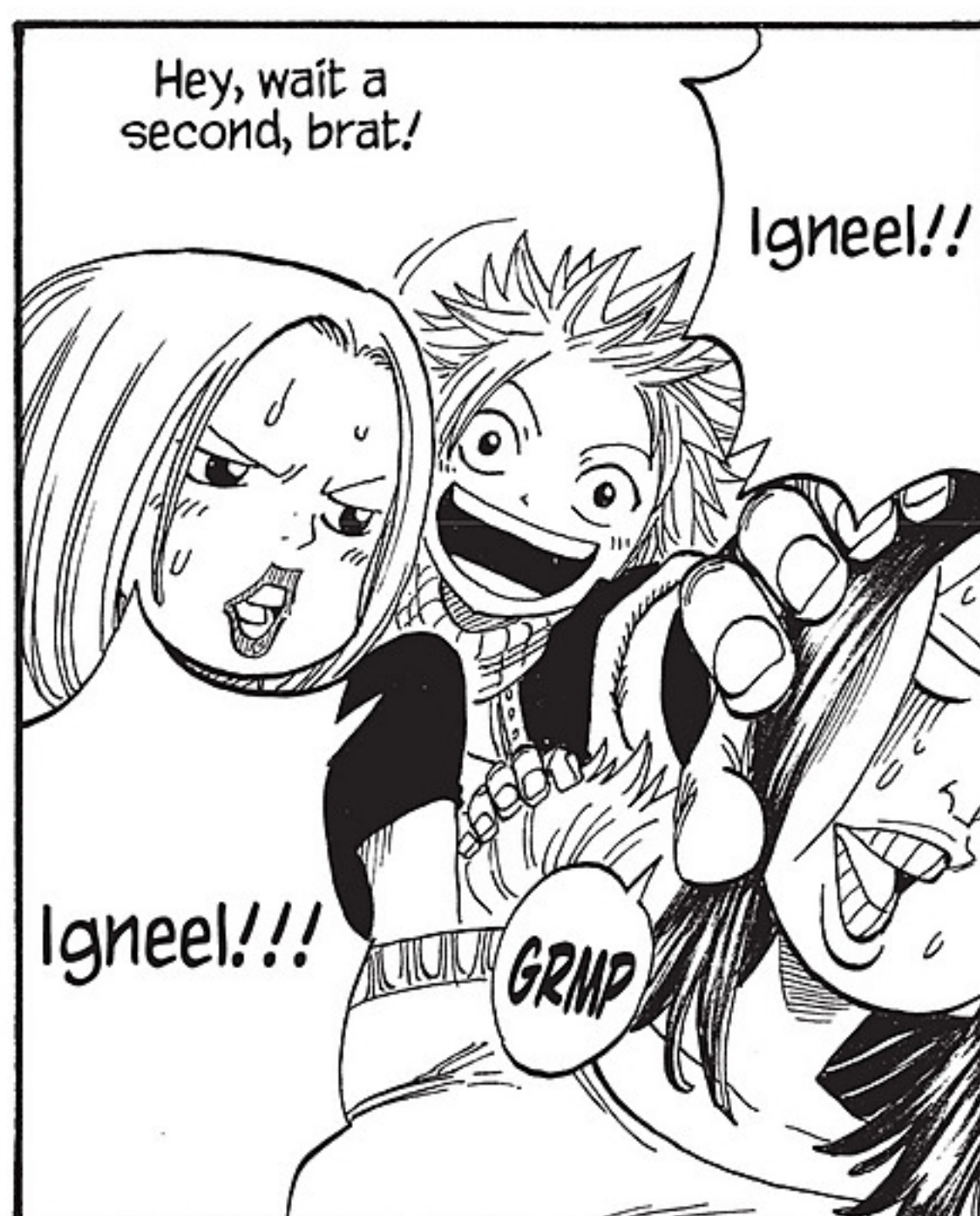
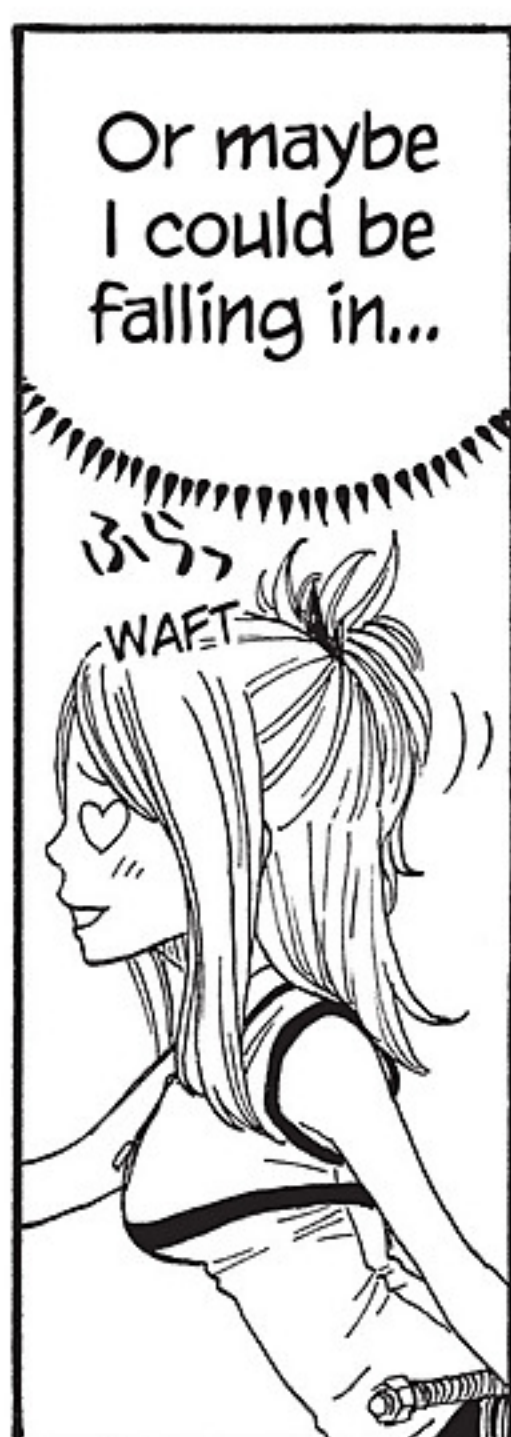
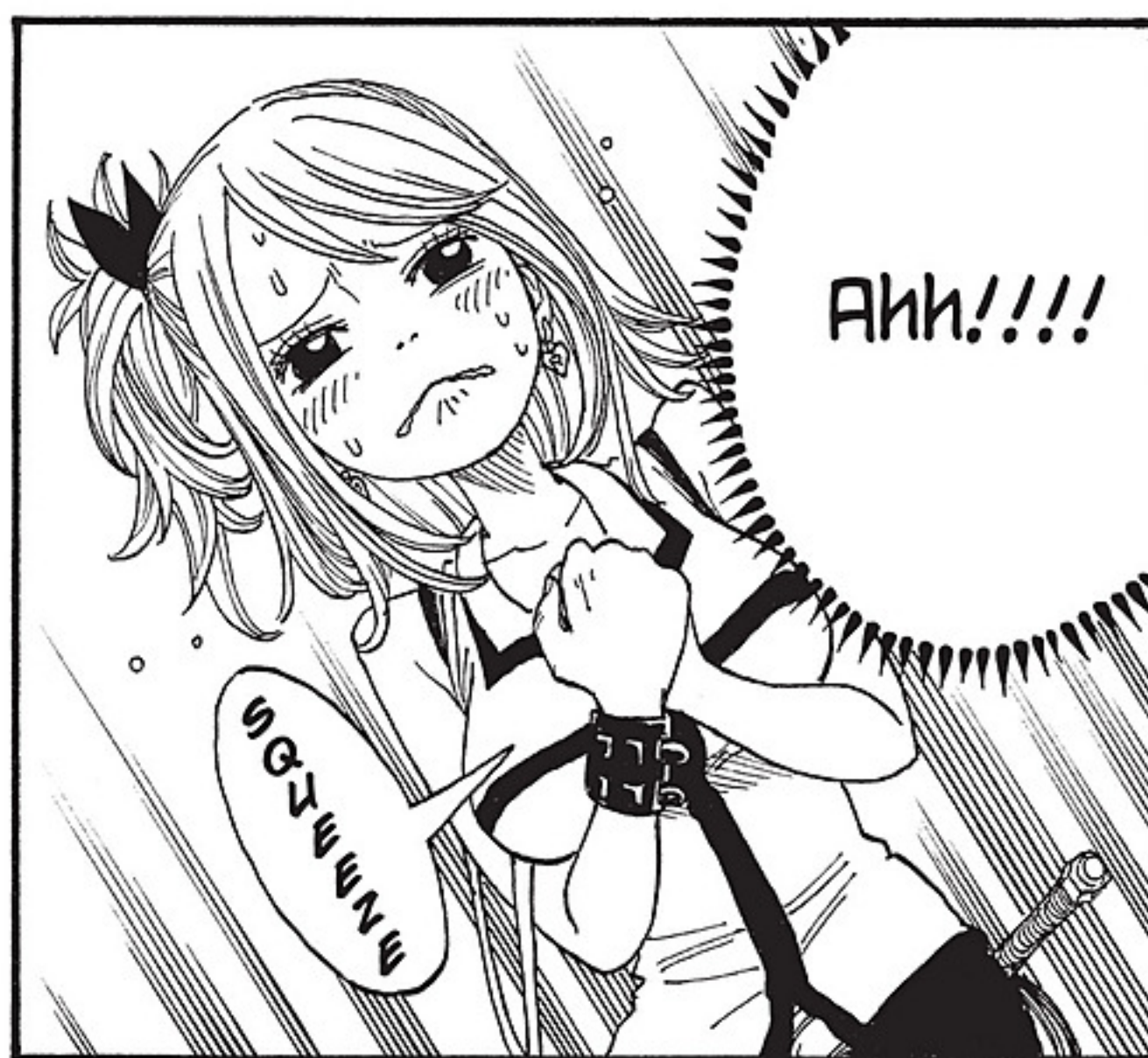
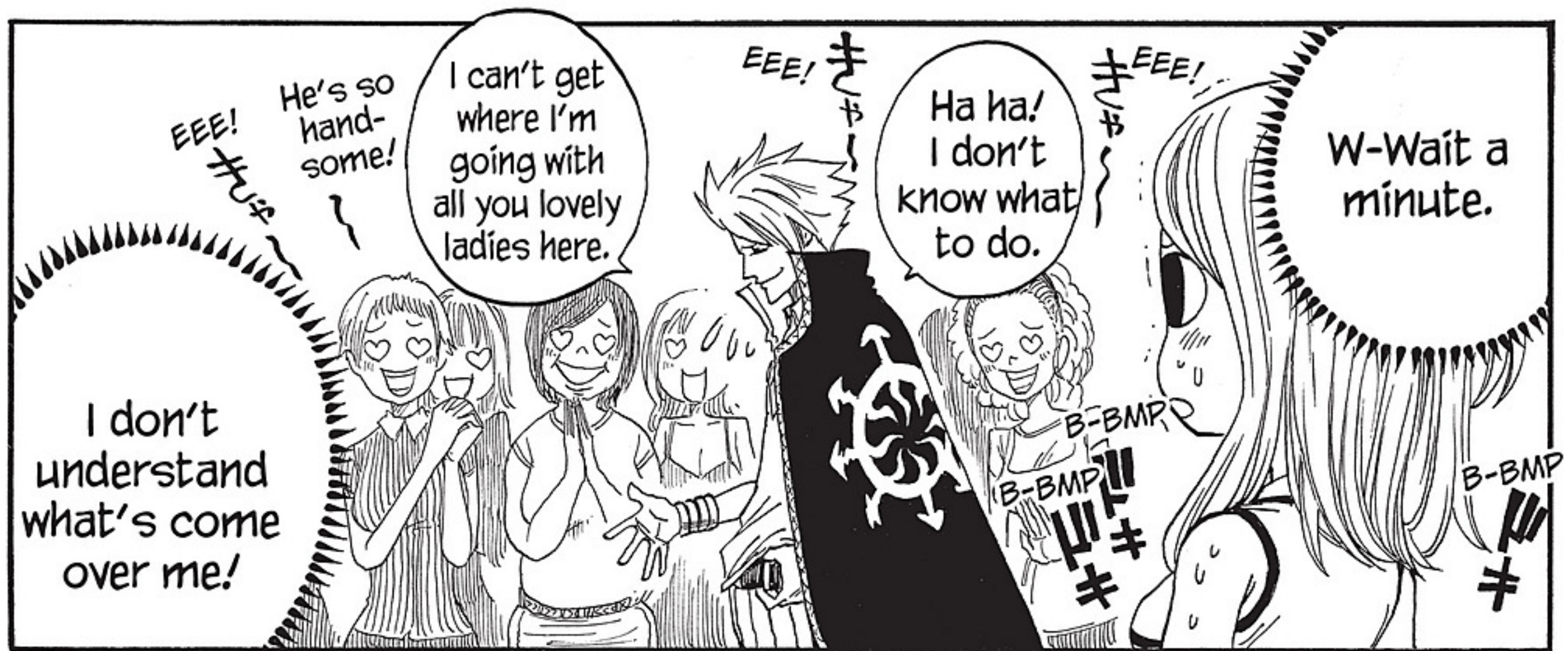


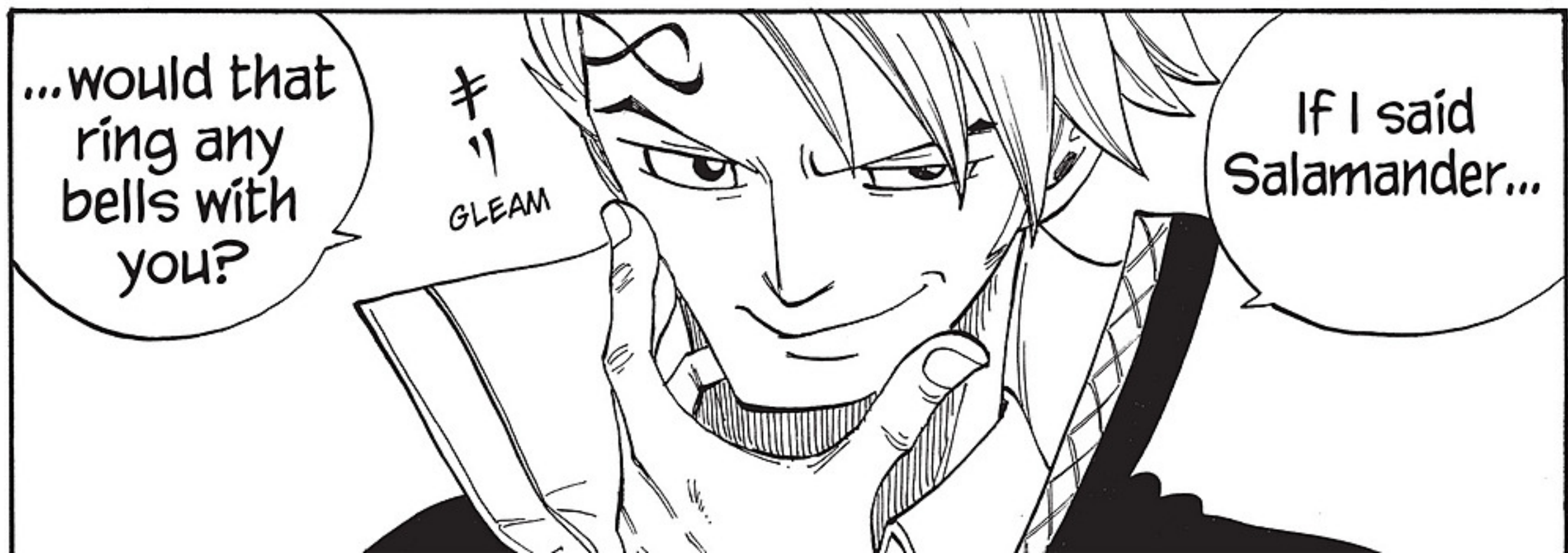
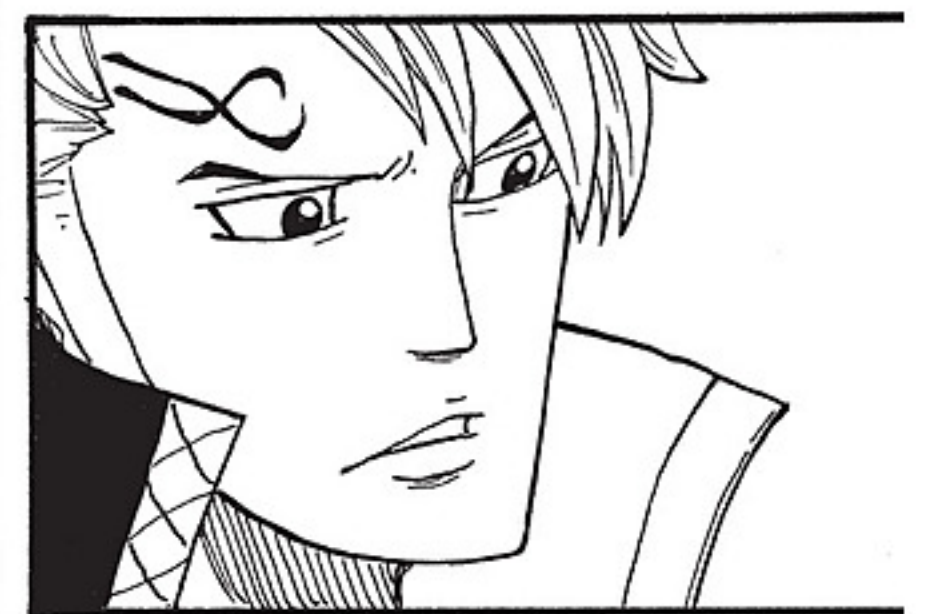
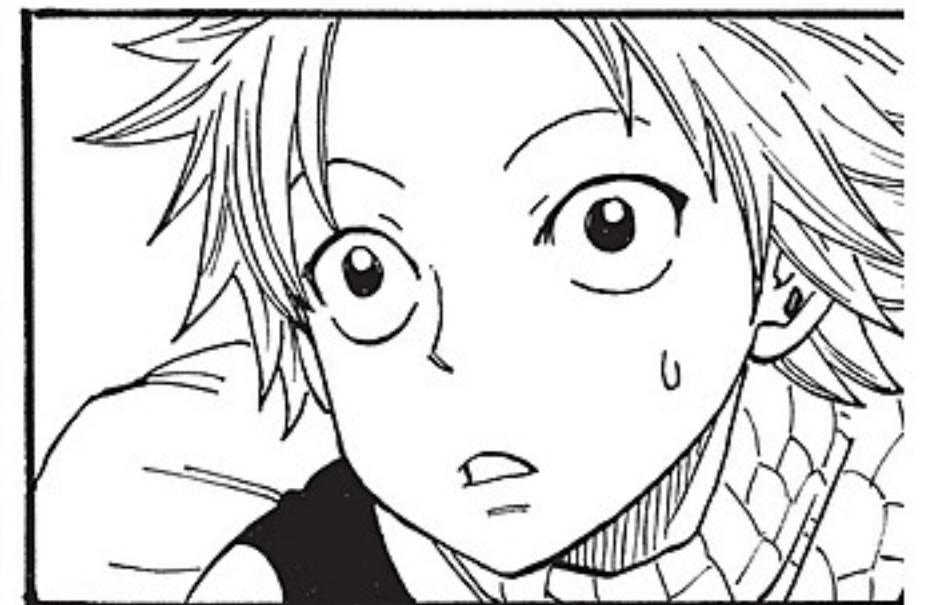
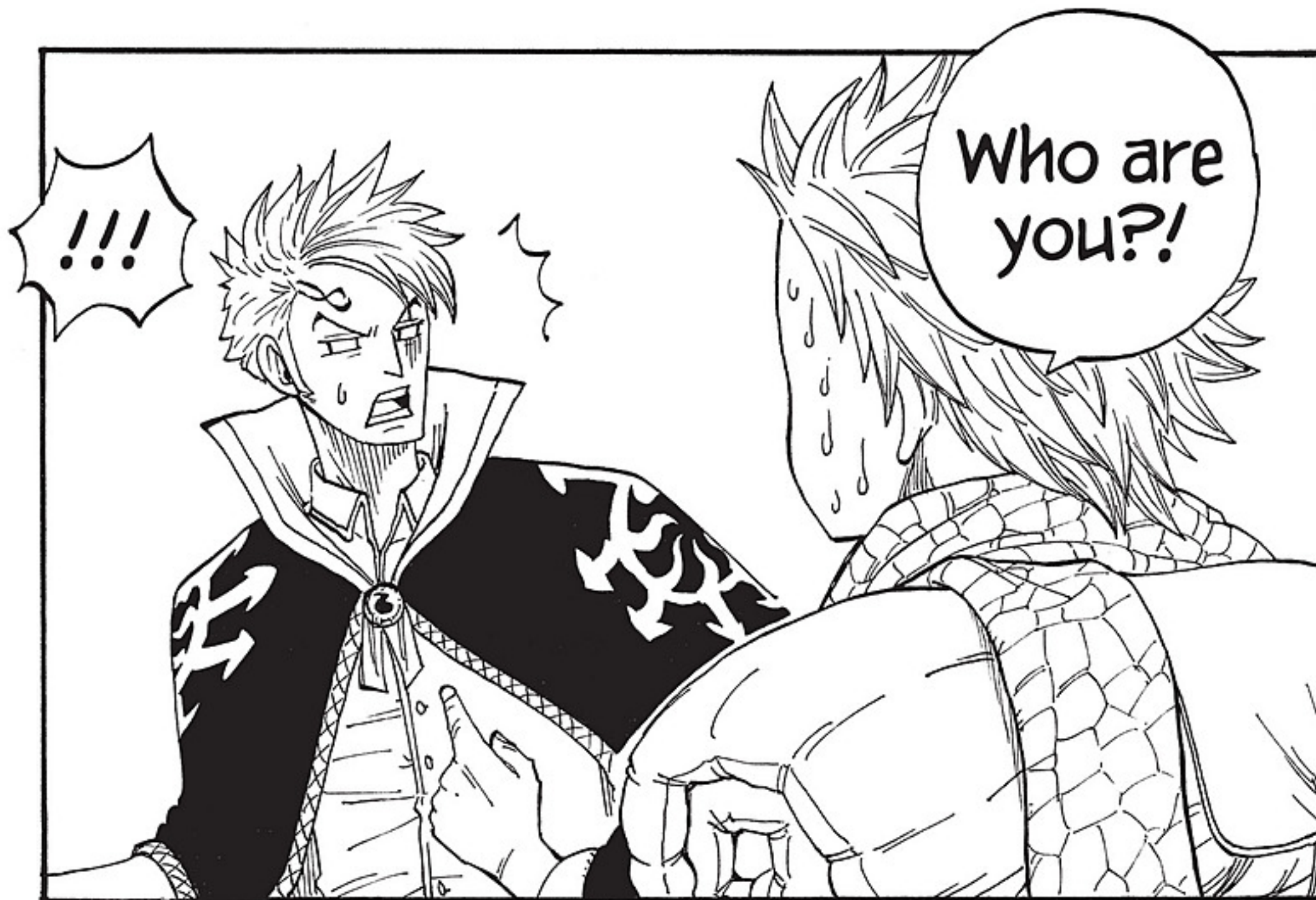
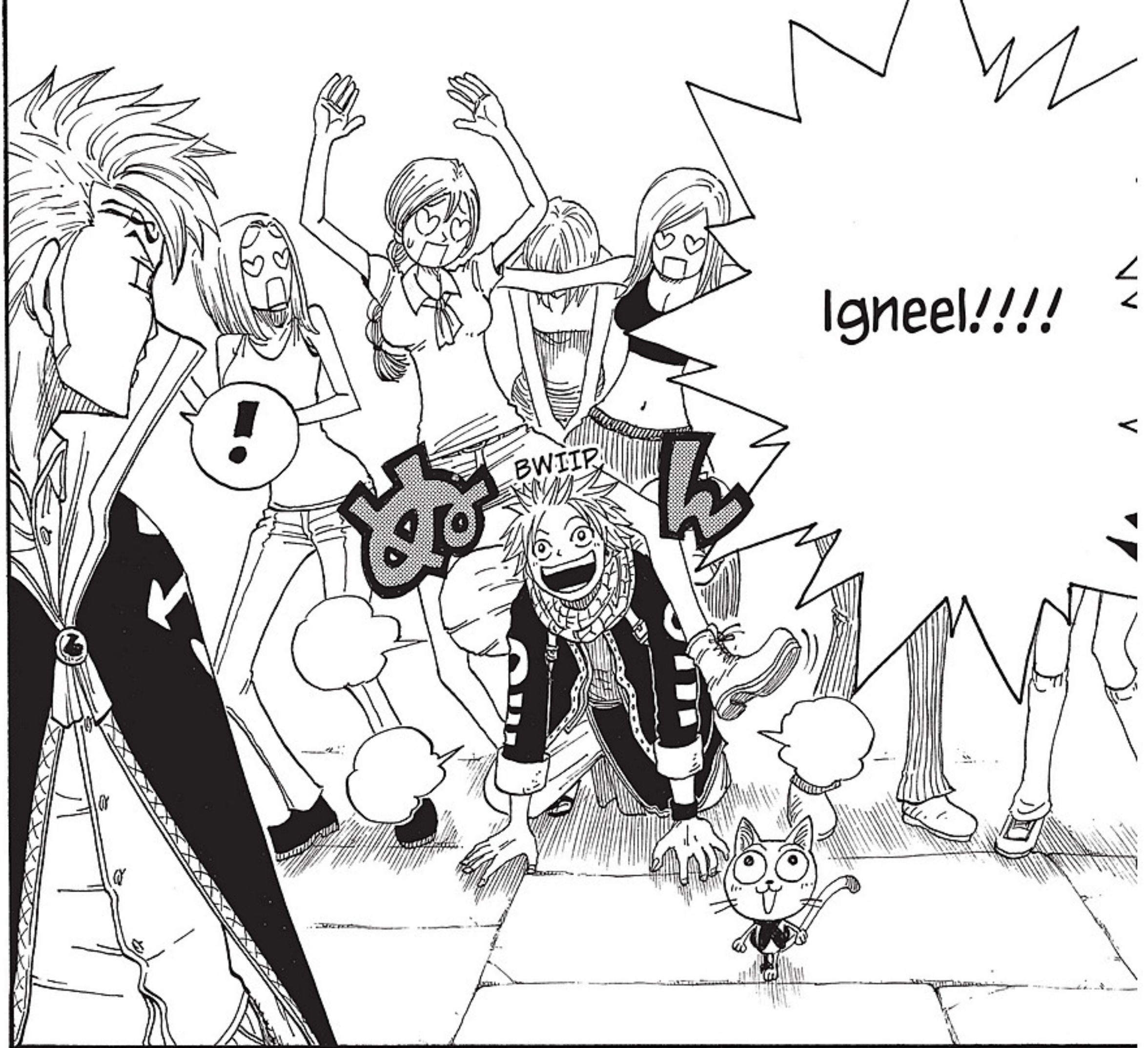
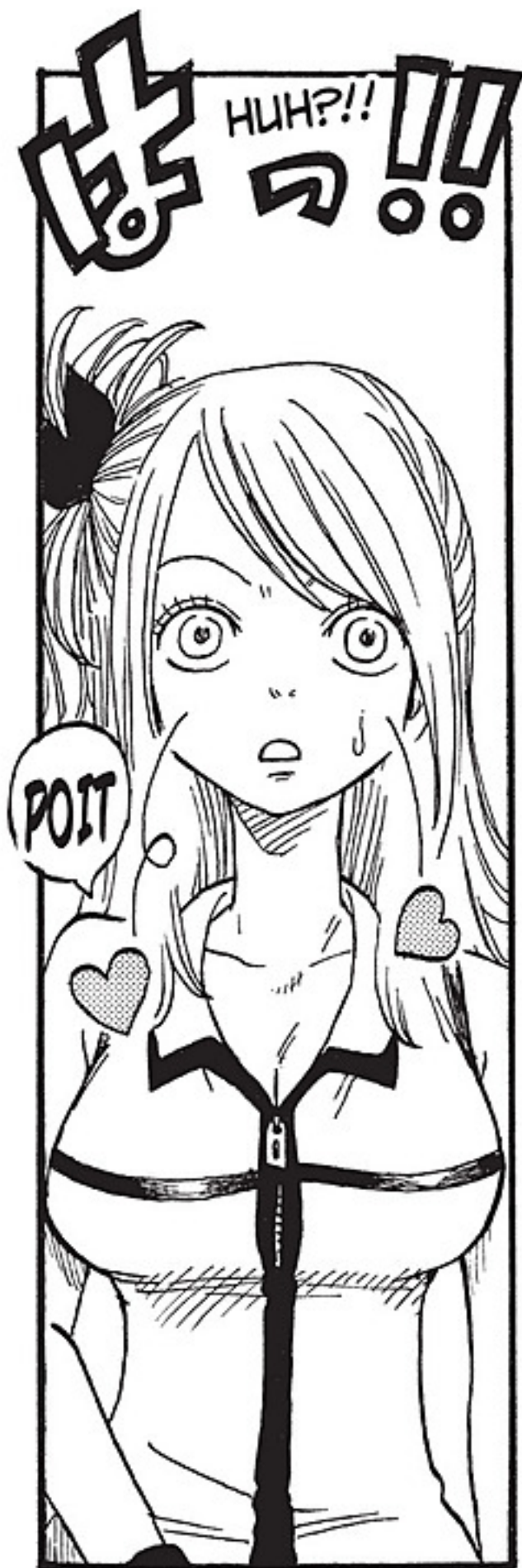


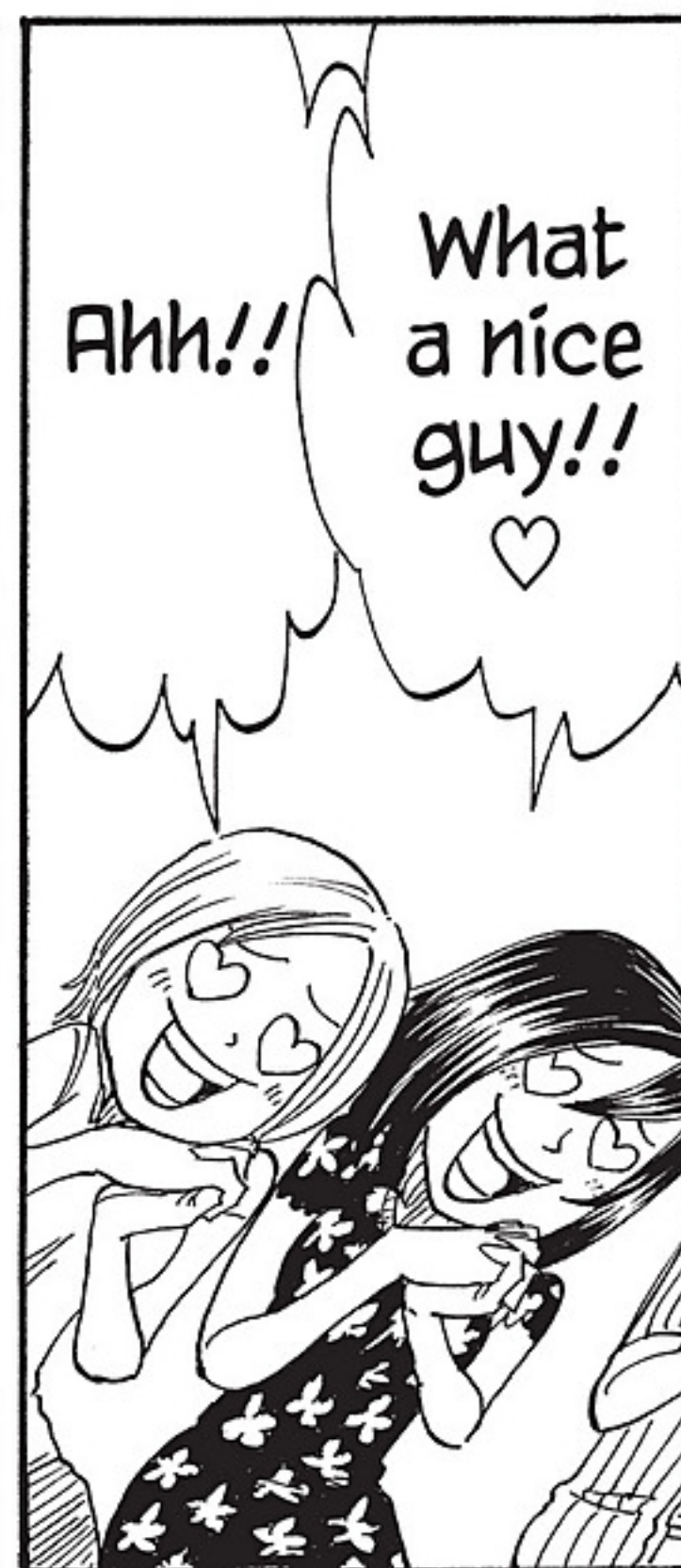
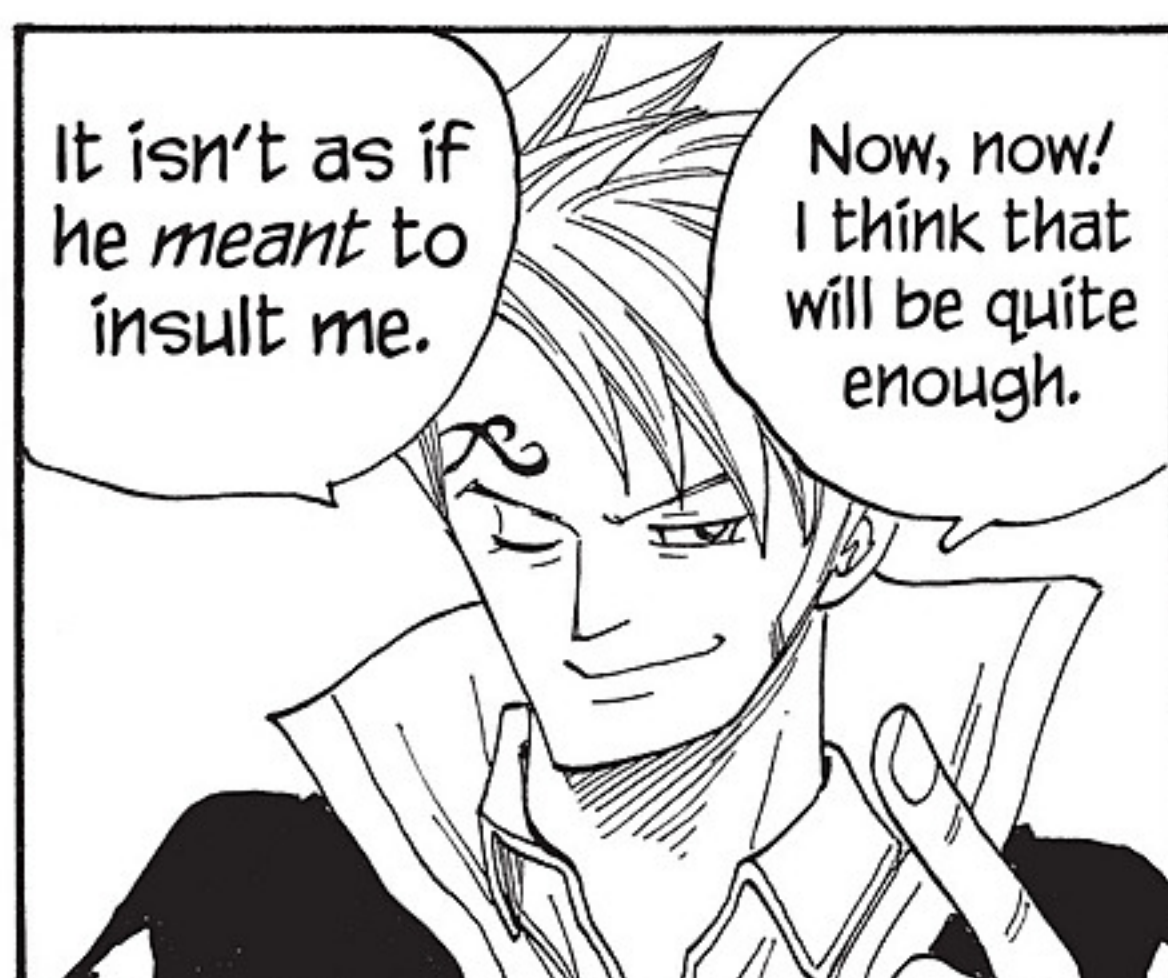
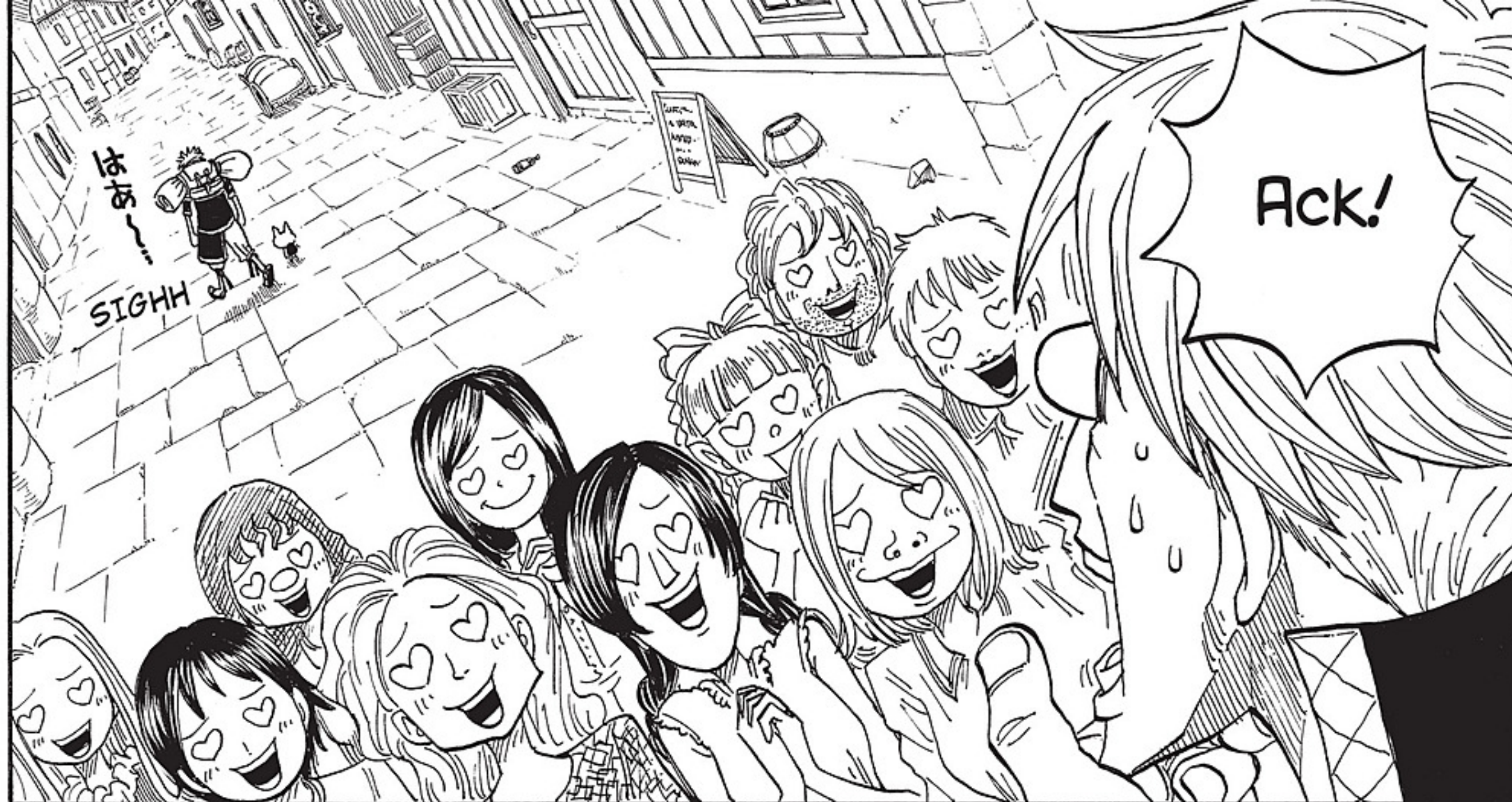


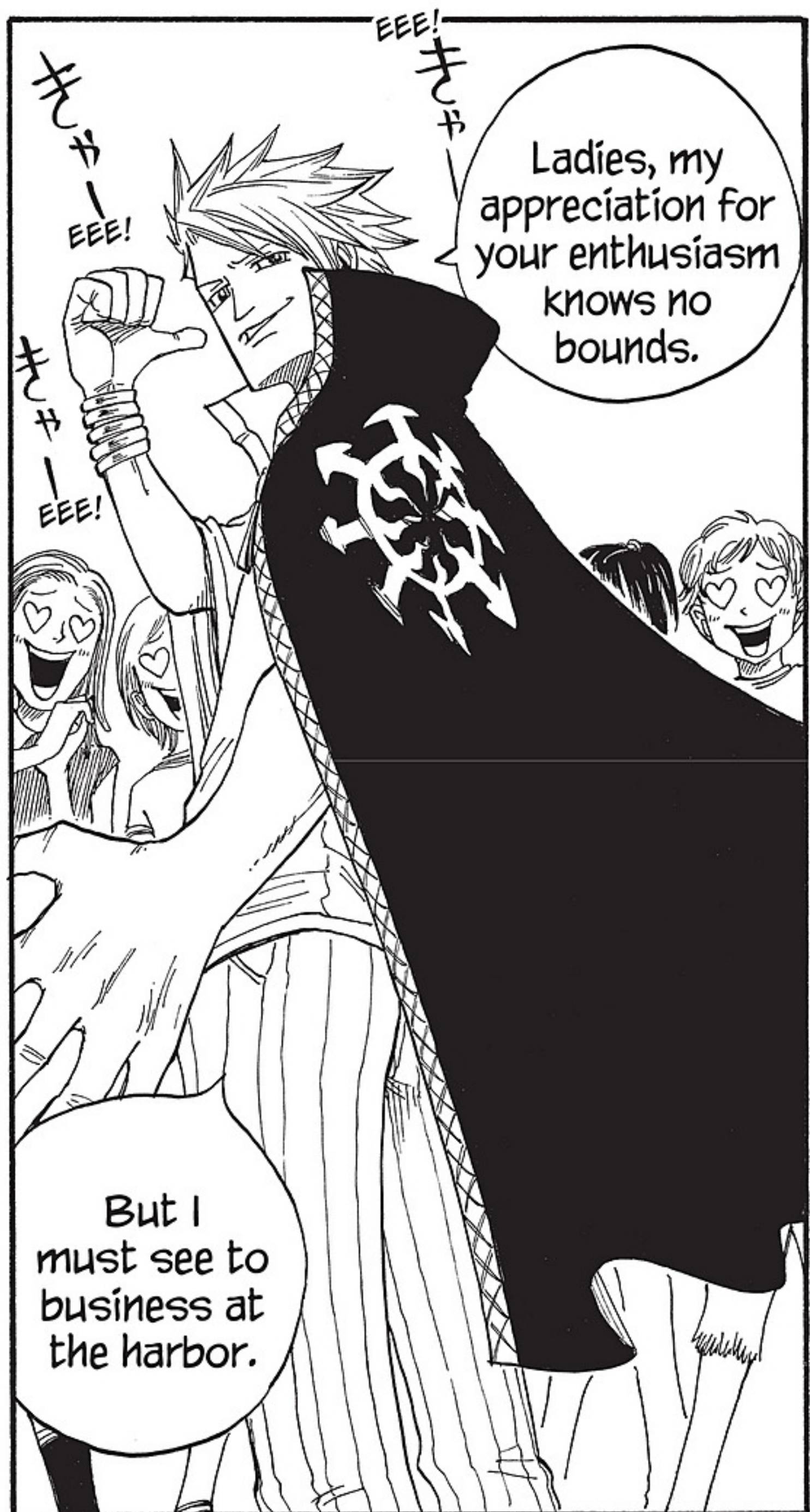
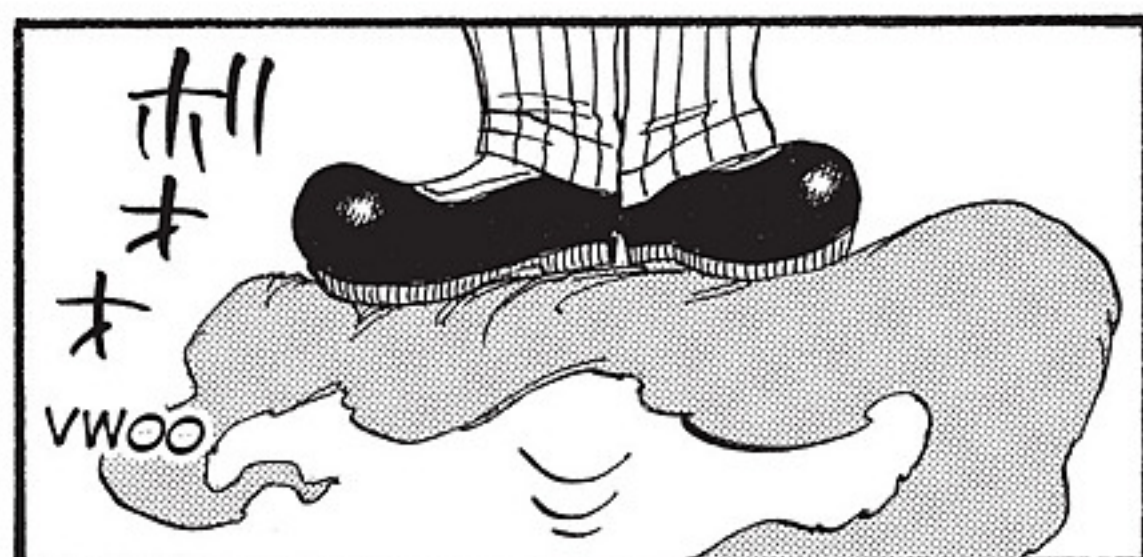
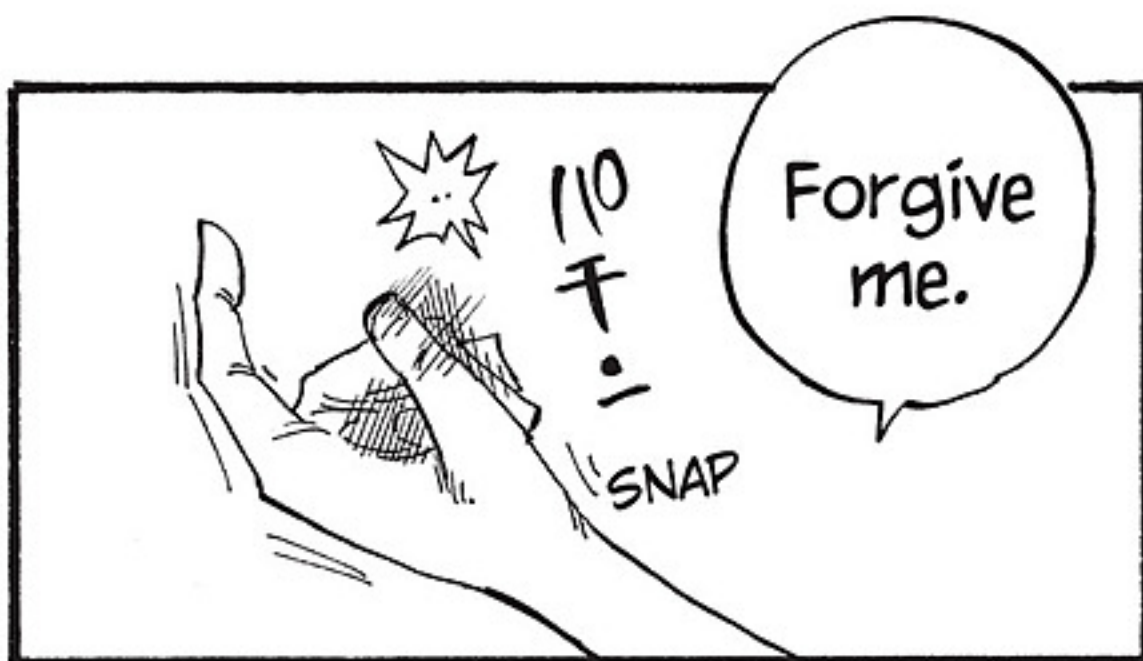


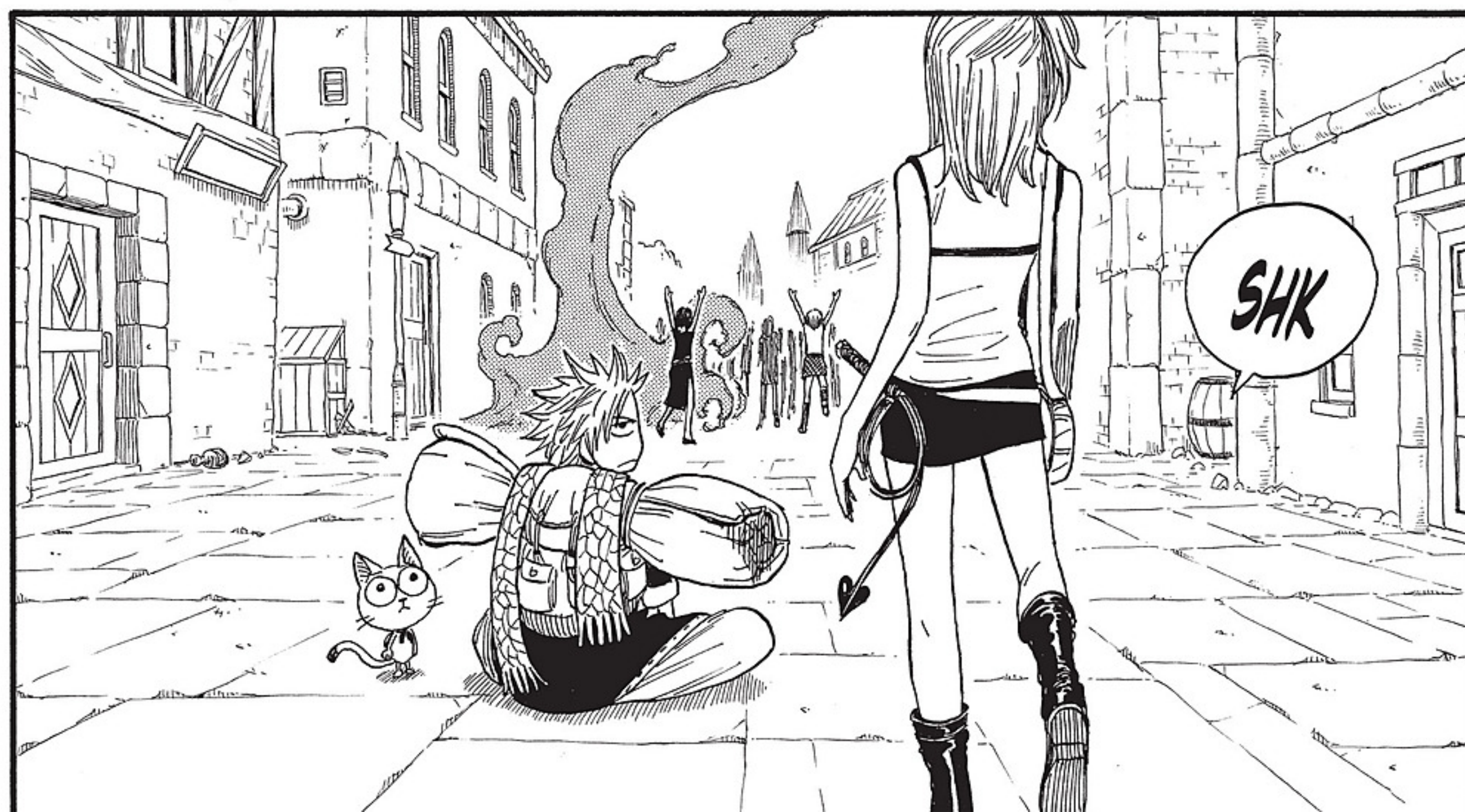
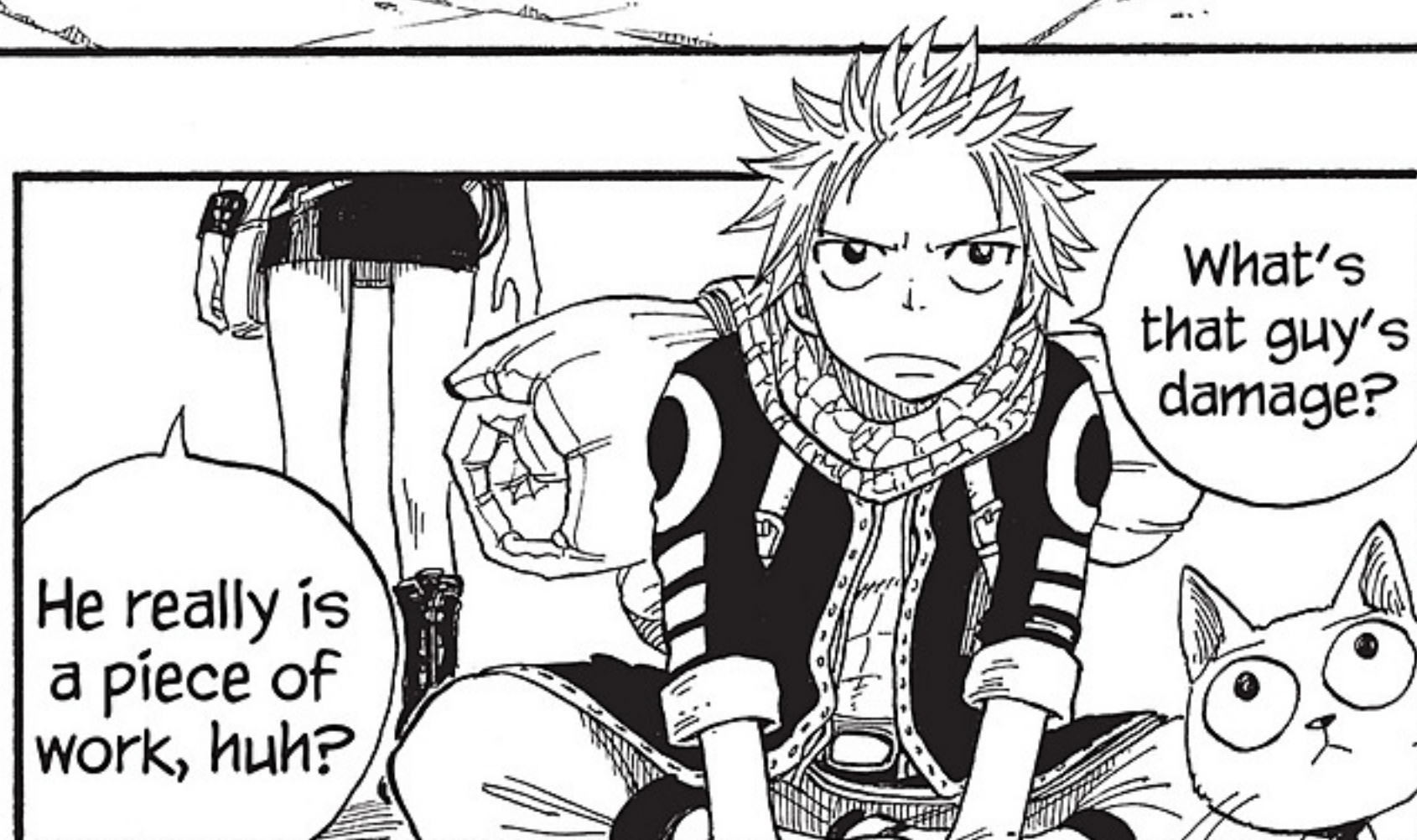
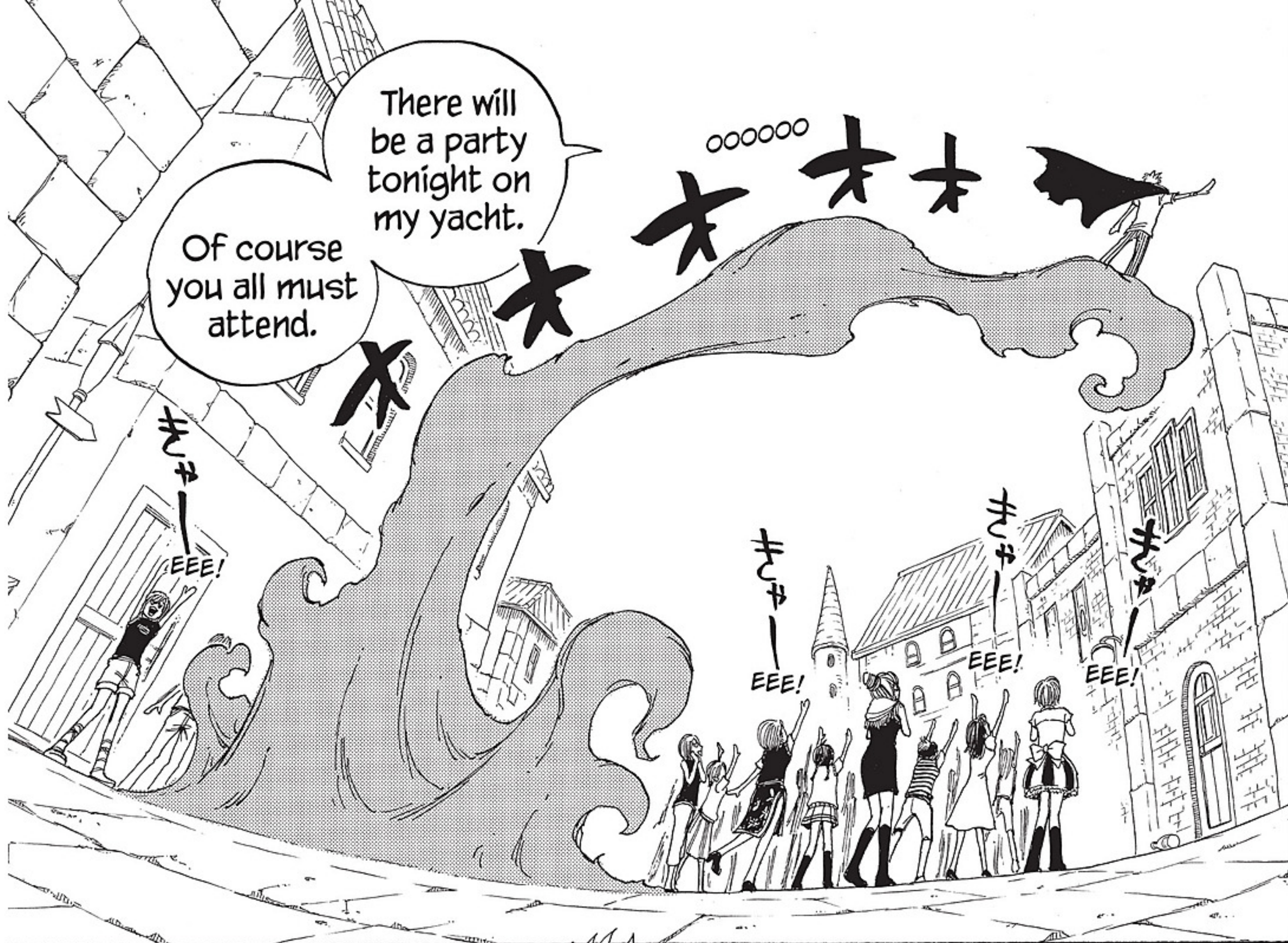


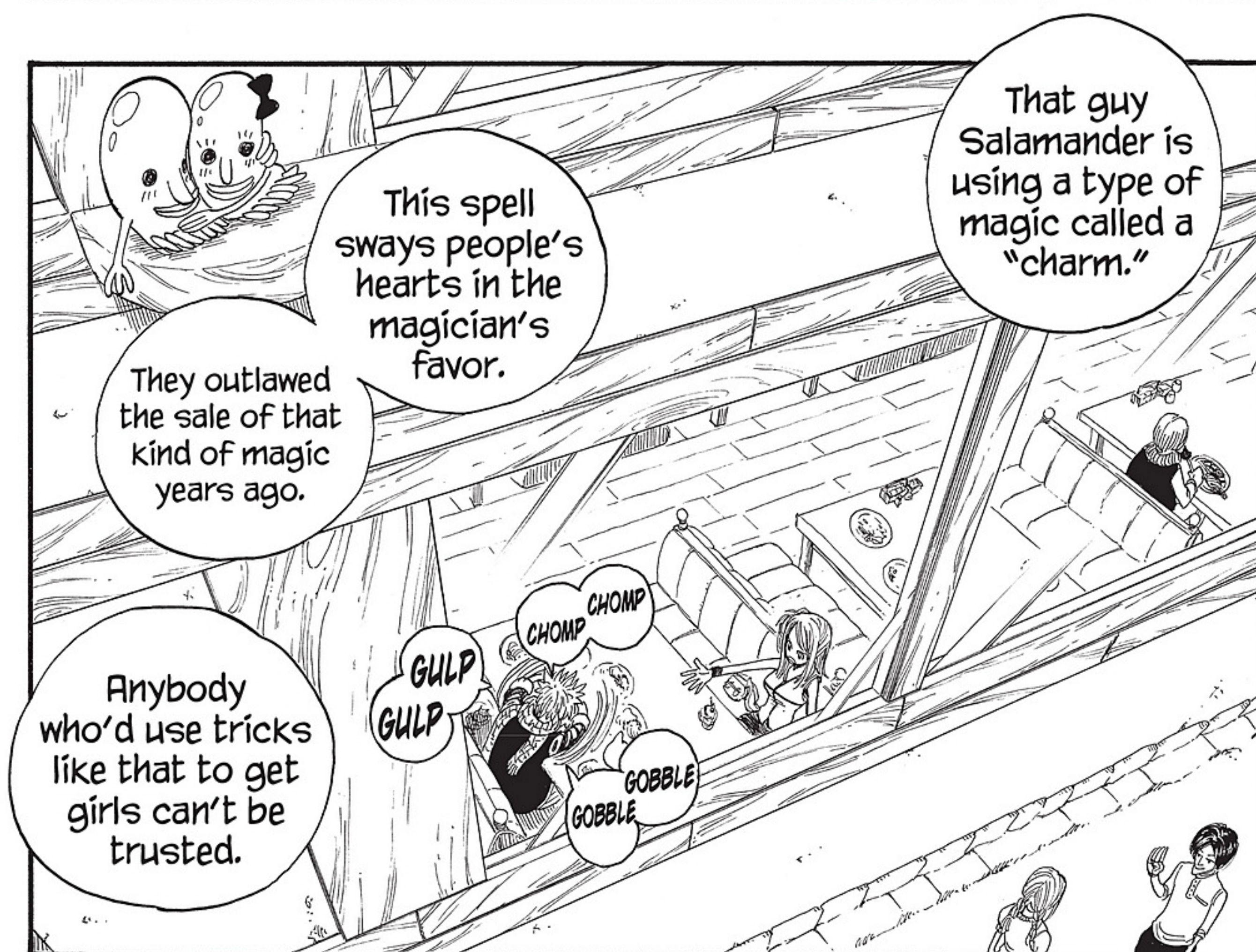
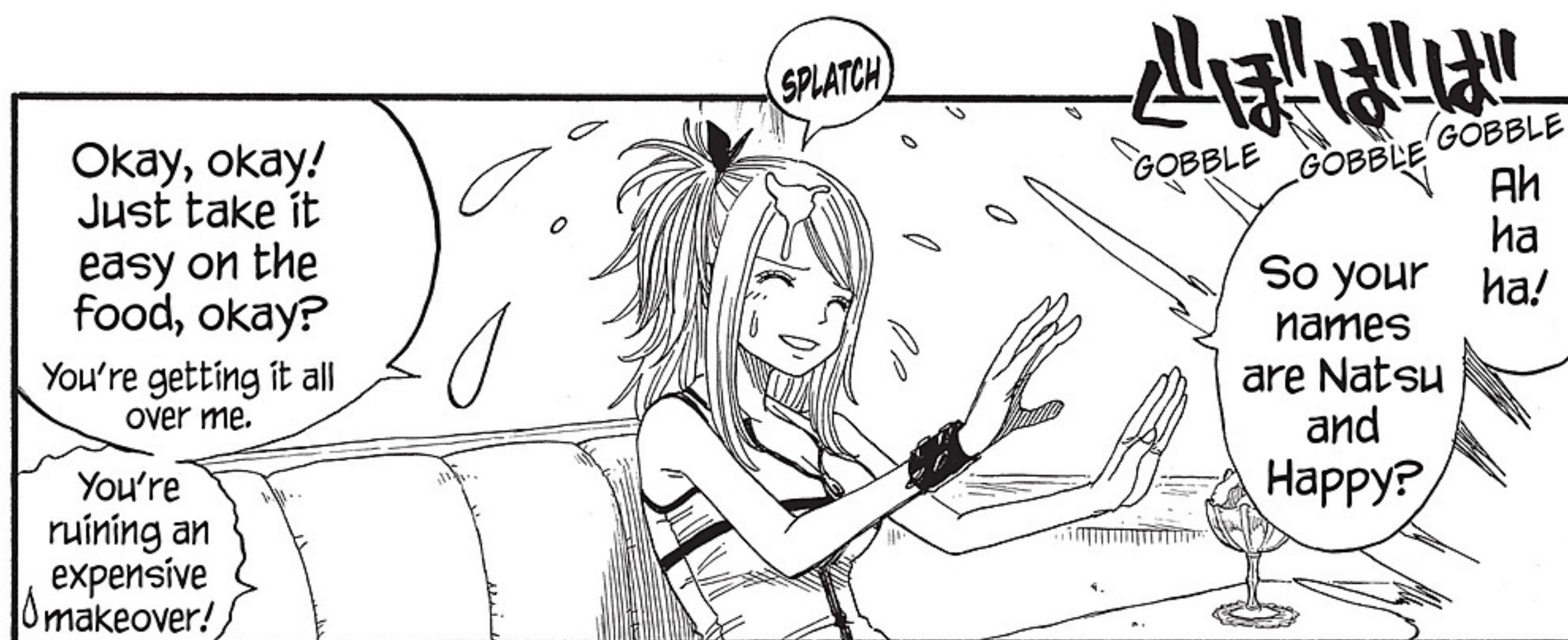


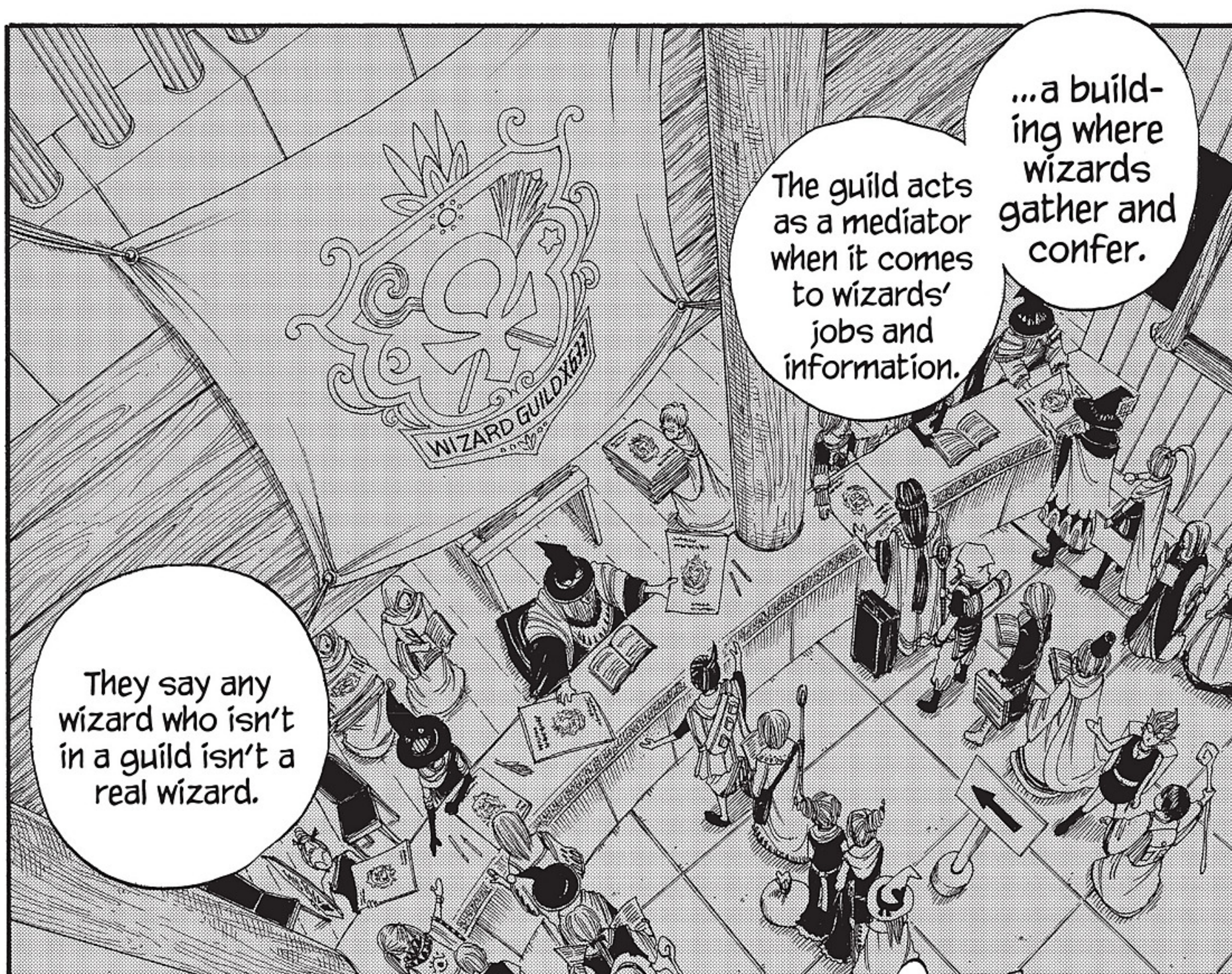
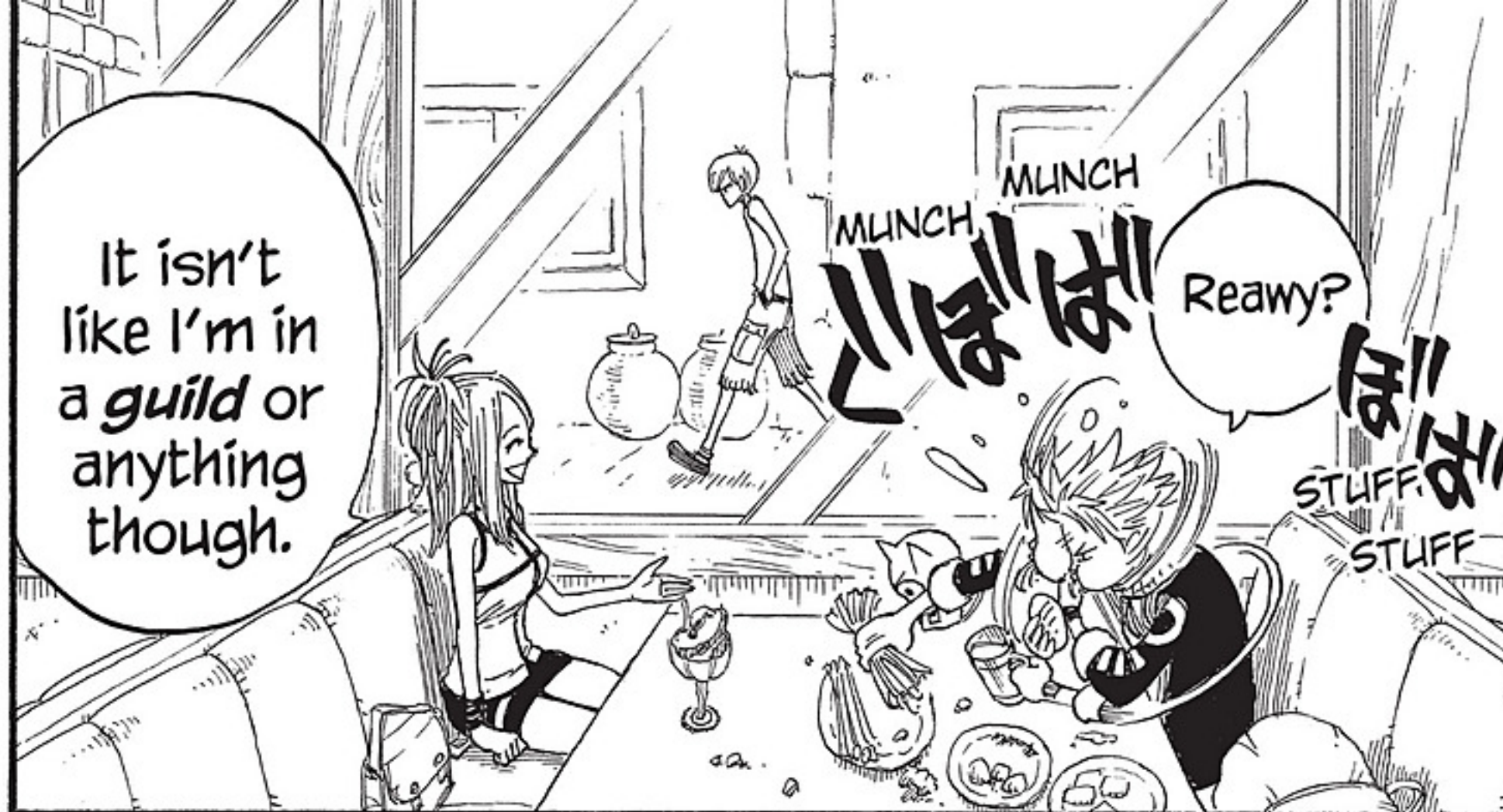






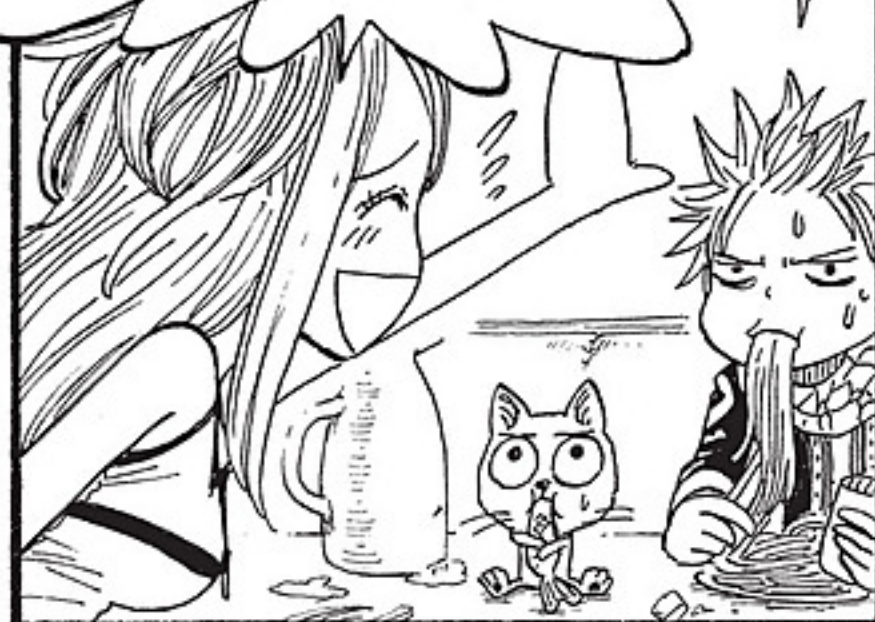






Ah! Sorry!
You don't know
anything about
the world of
wizardry,
do you?

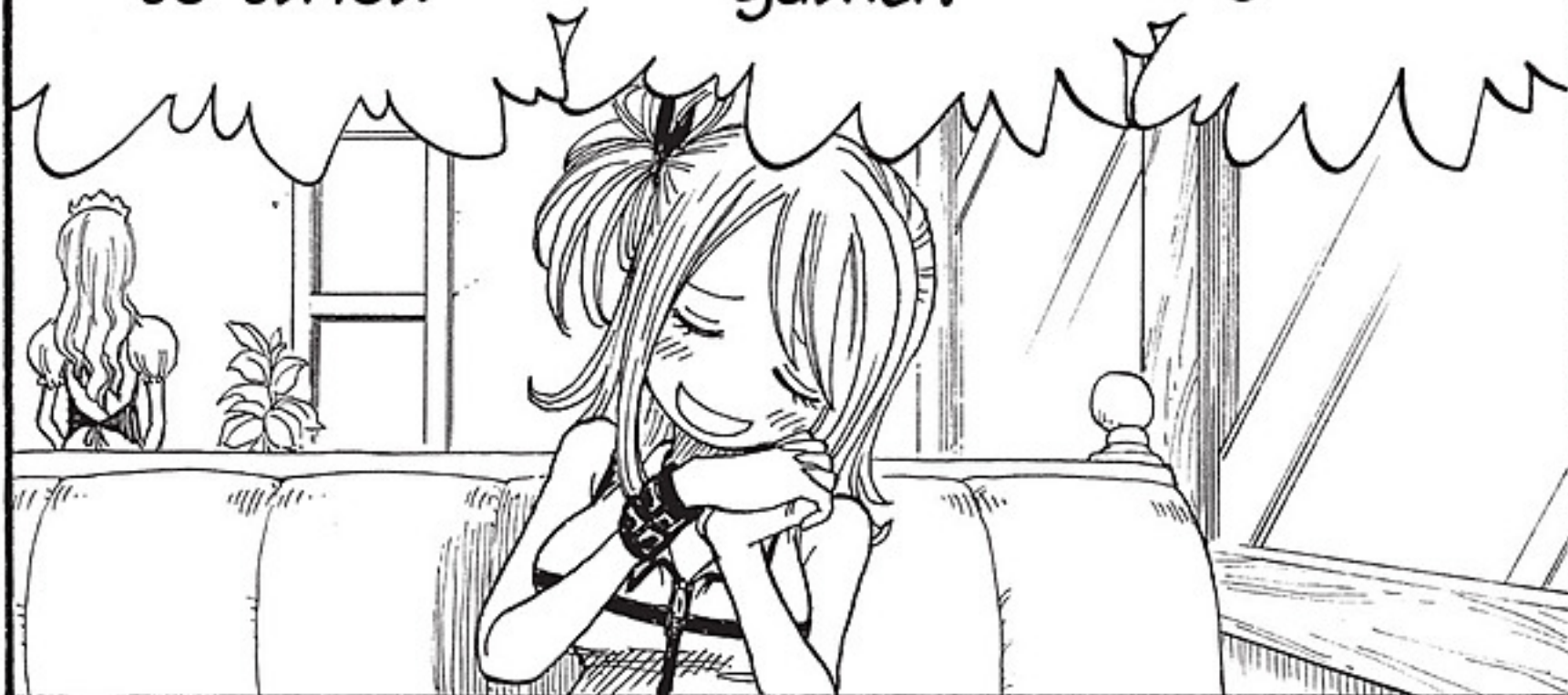
Uh...



Oh, what'll I
do? I want to
get in, but I'm
sure they'll be
so strict.

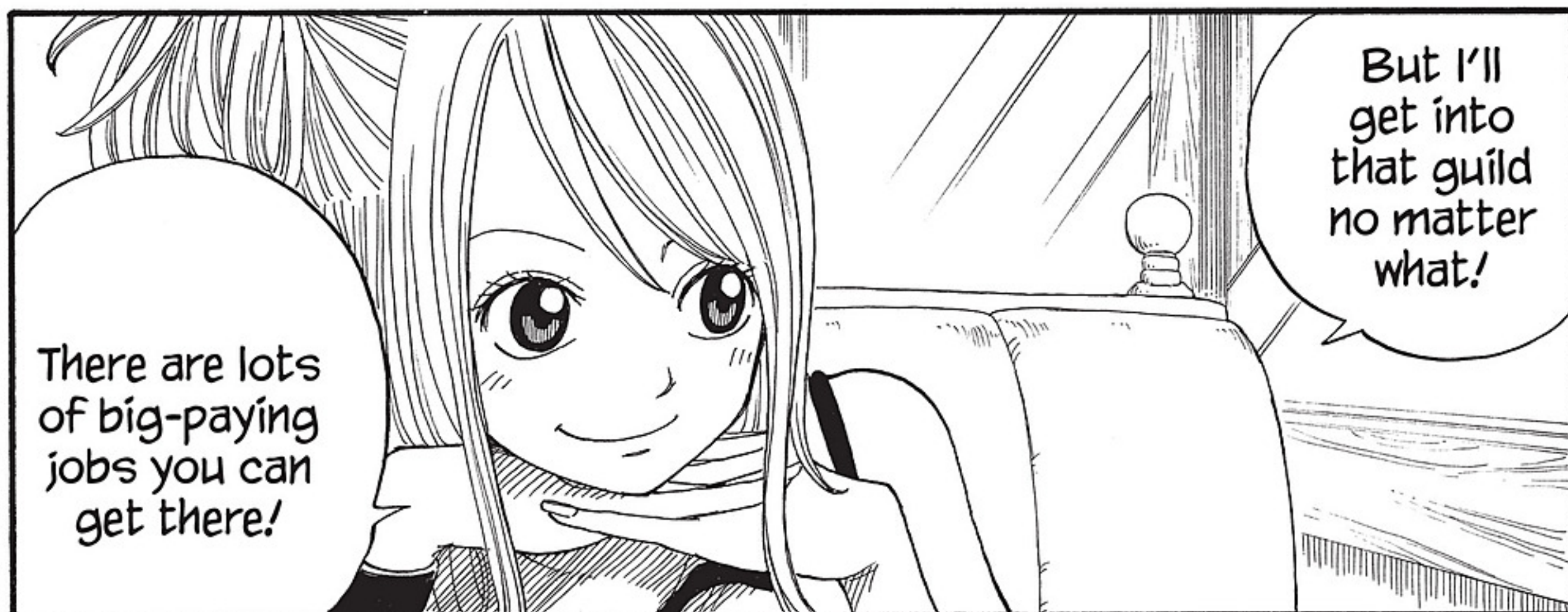
It's a place
where really
incredible
wizards
gather!

There's
one that
I want to
get into!



There are lots
of big-paying
jobs you can
get there!

But I'll
get into
that guild
no matter
what!



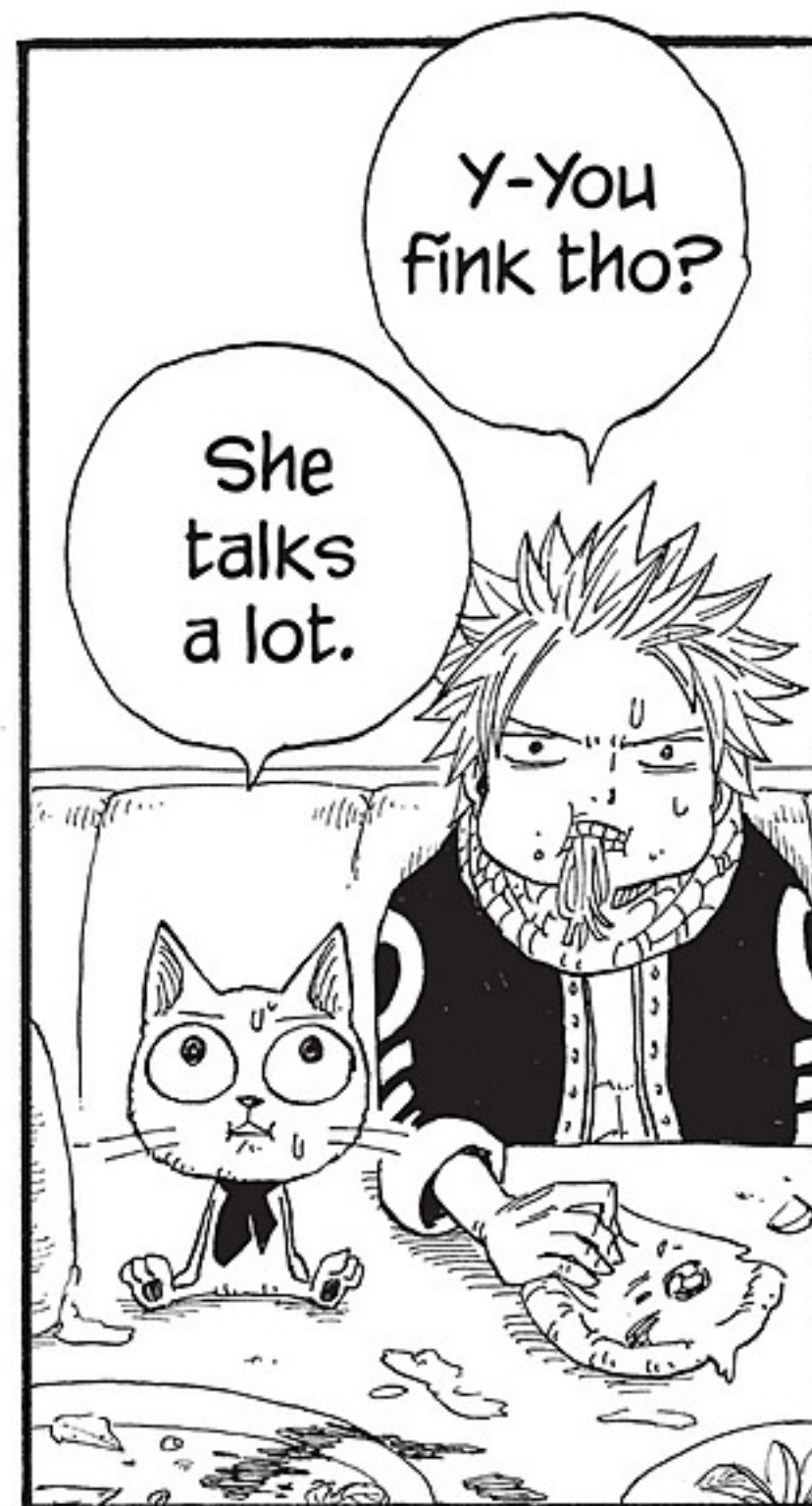
Aye. Igneel.

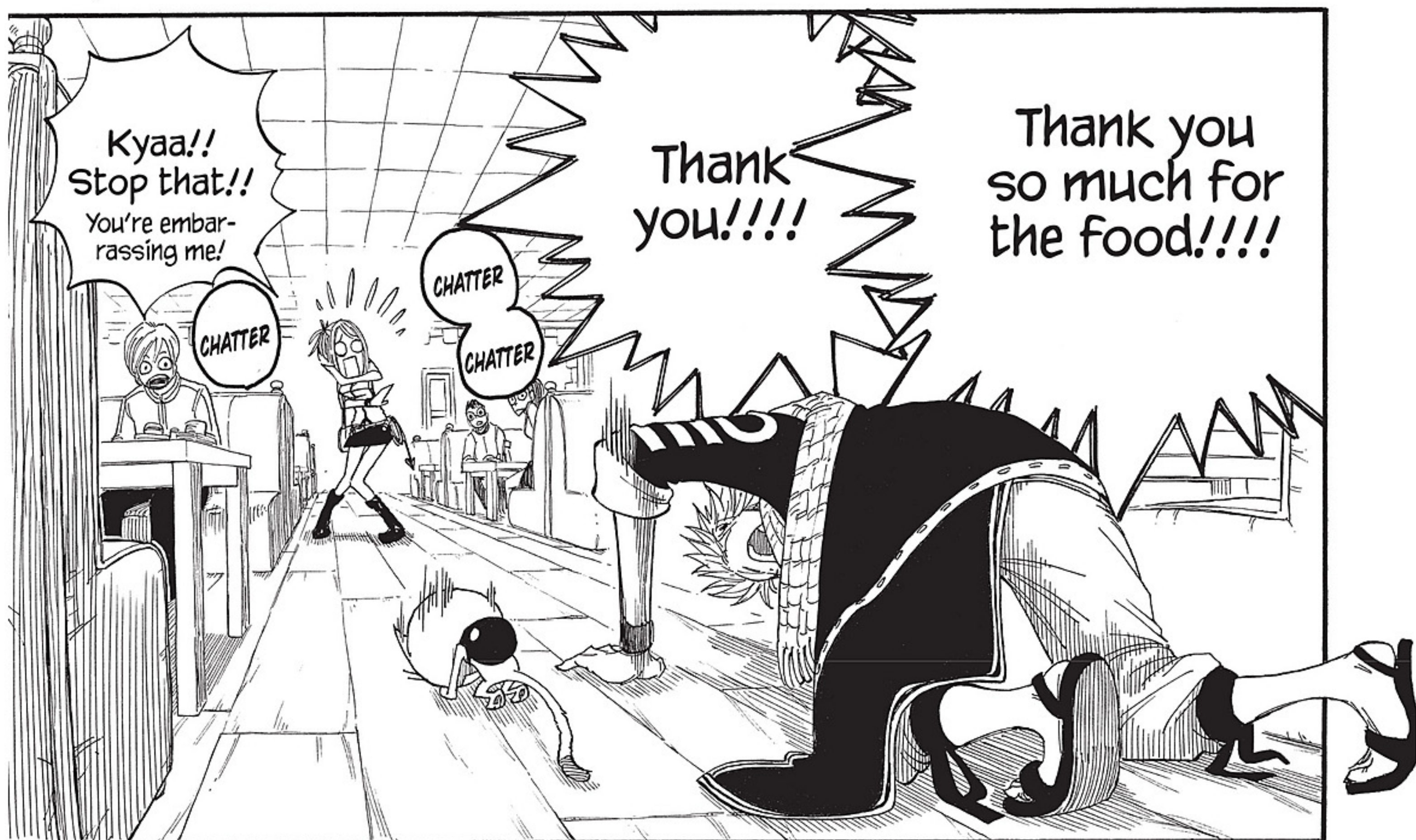
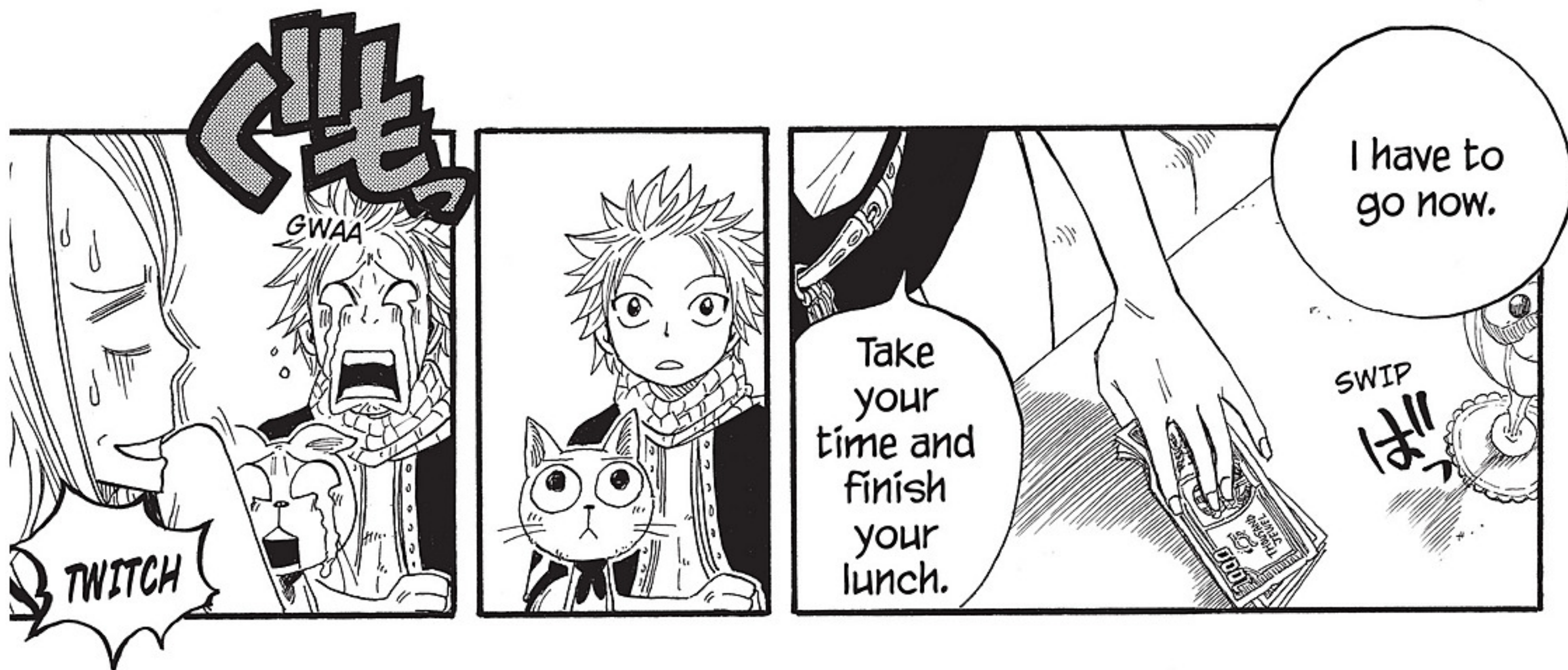
By the way,
you seemed to
be looking for
someone.

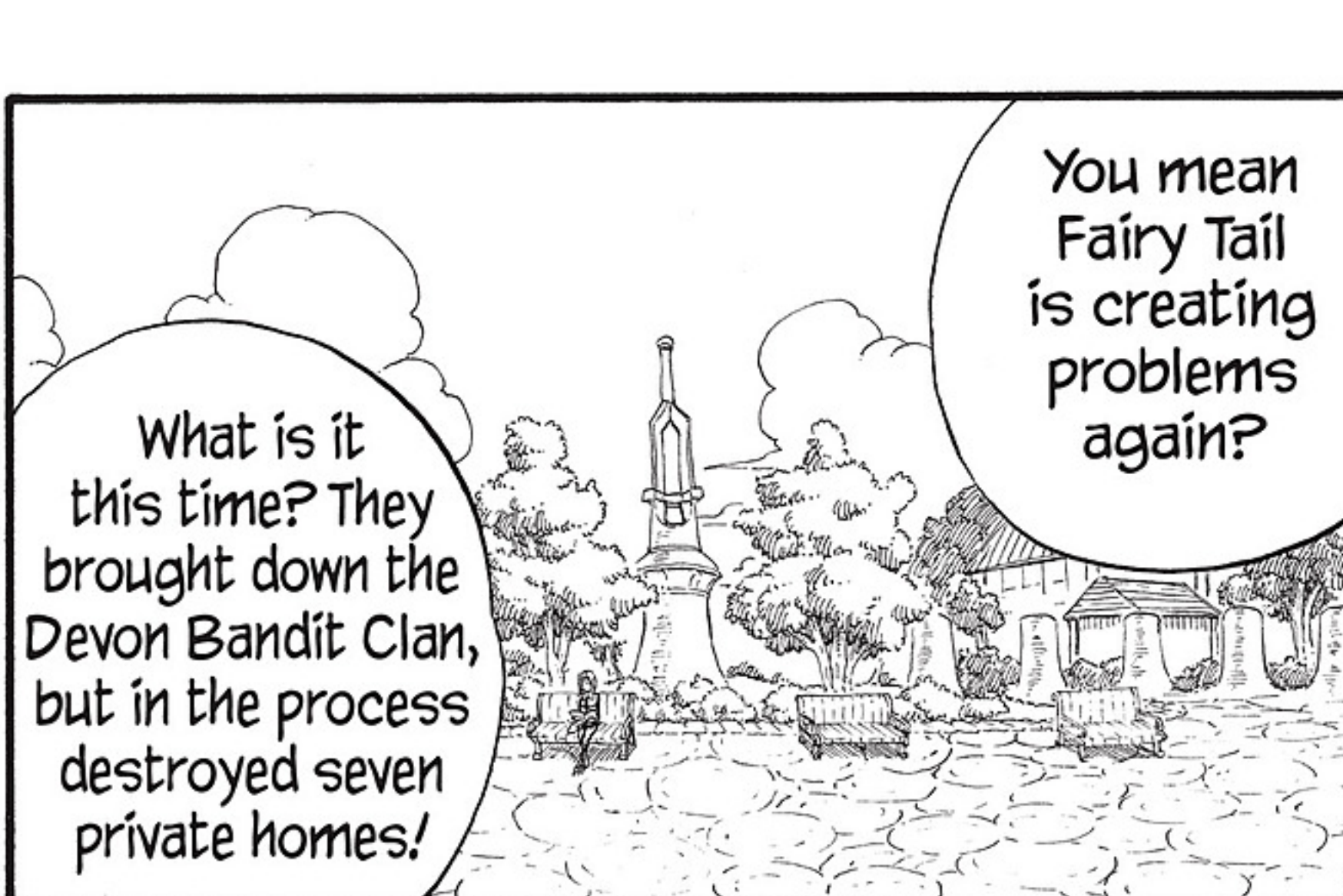
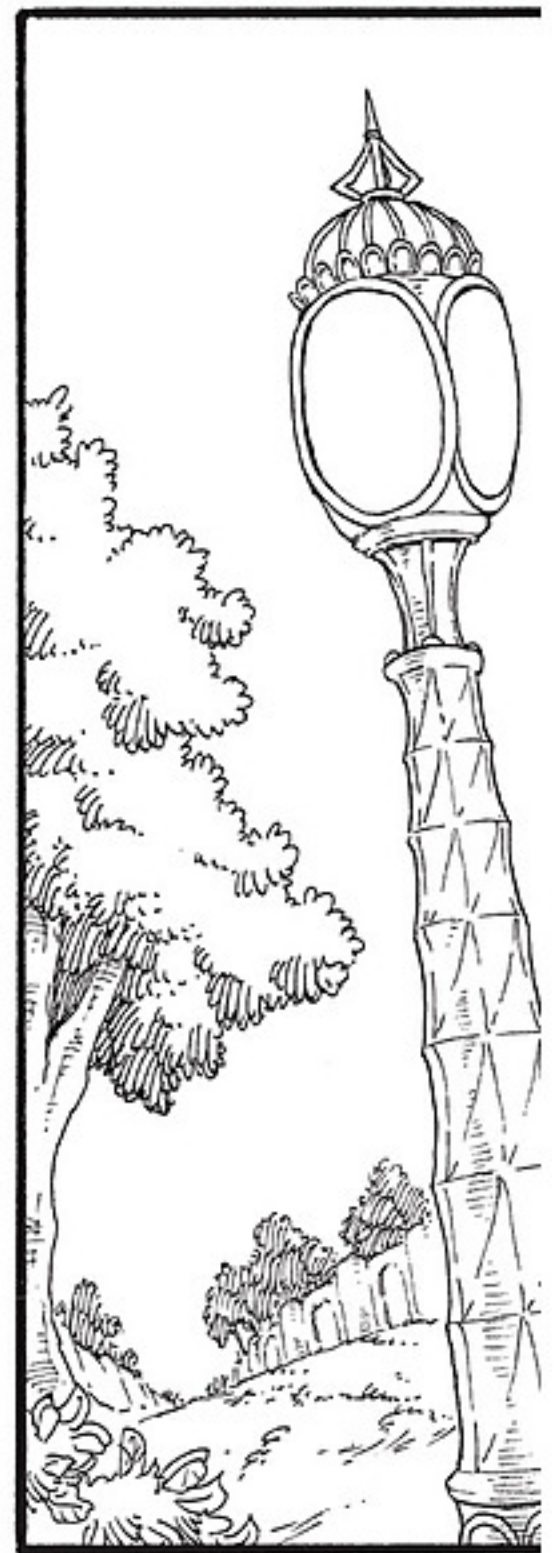
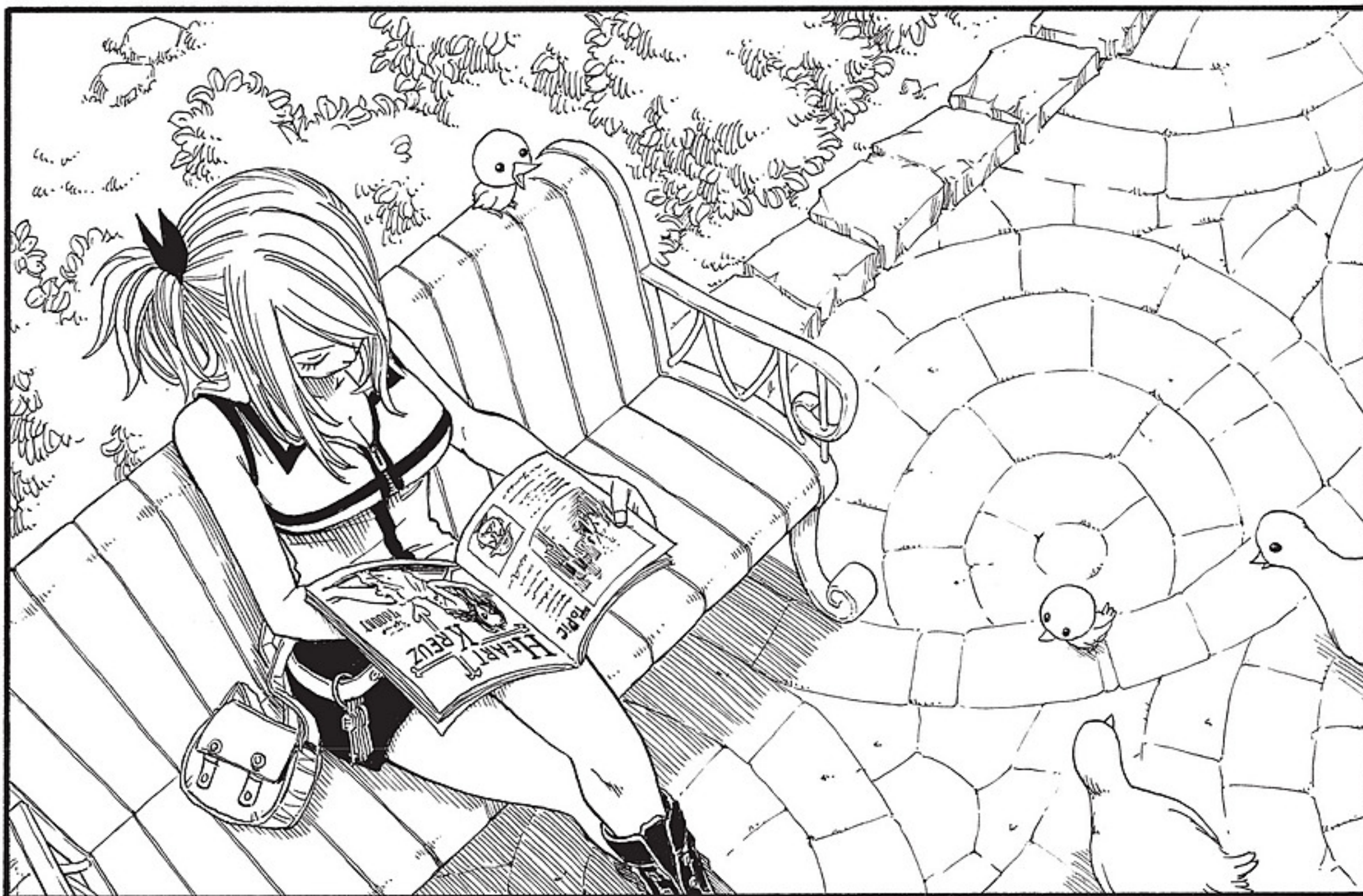
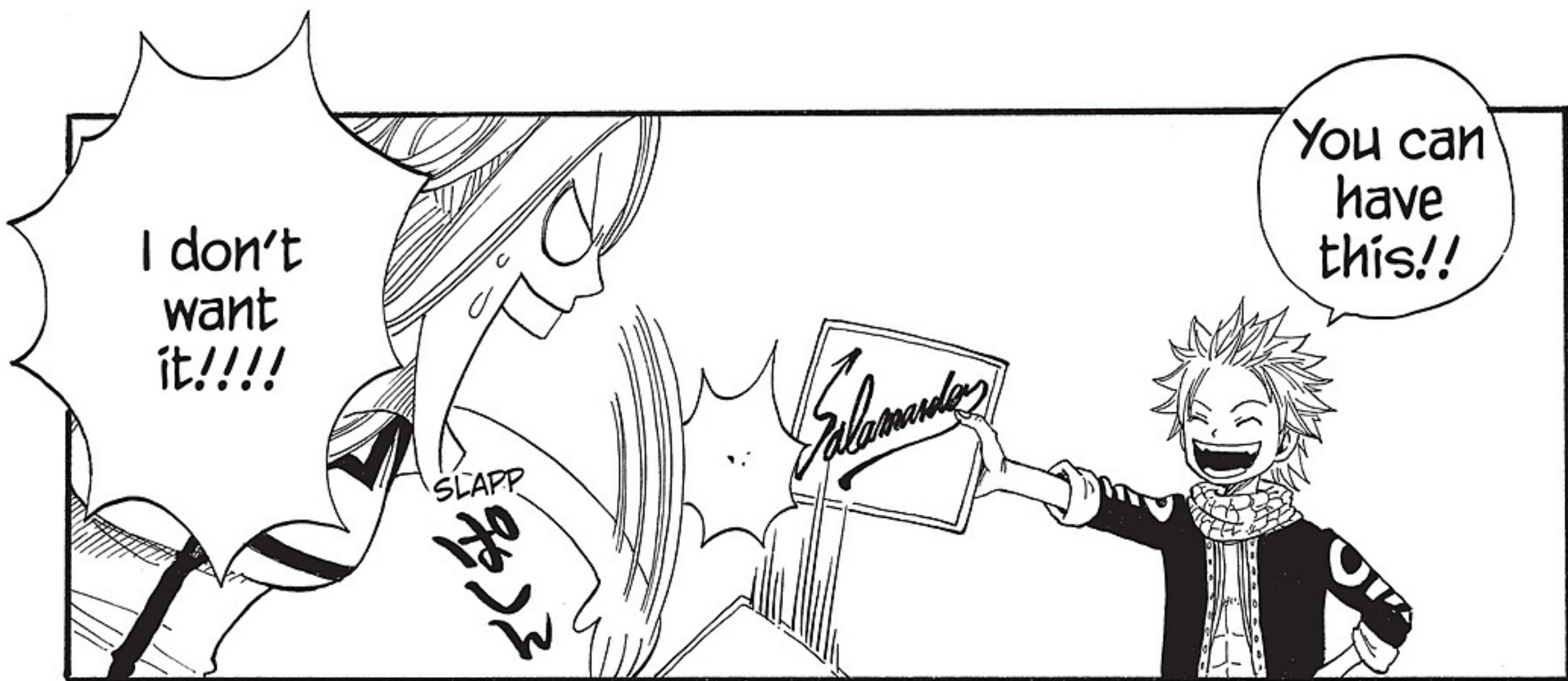


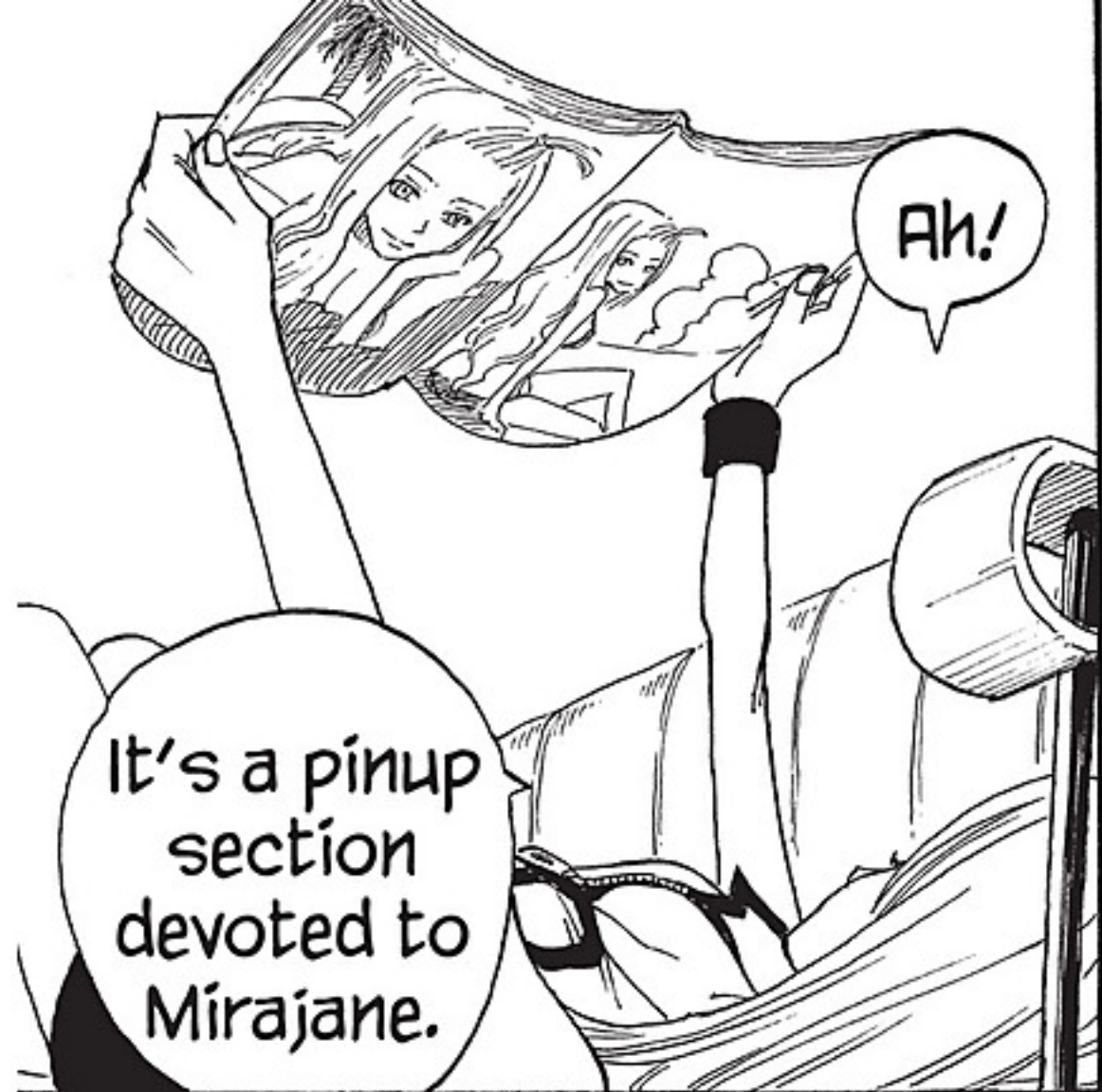
Y-You
fink tho?

She
talks
a lot.



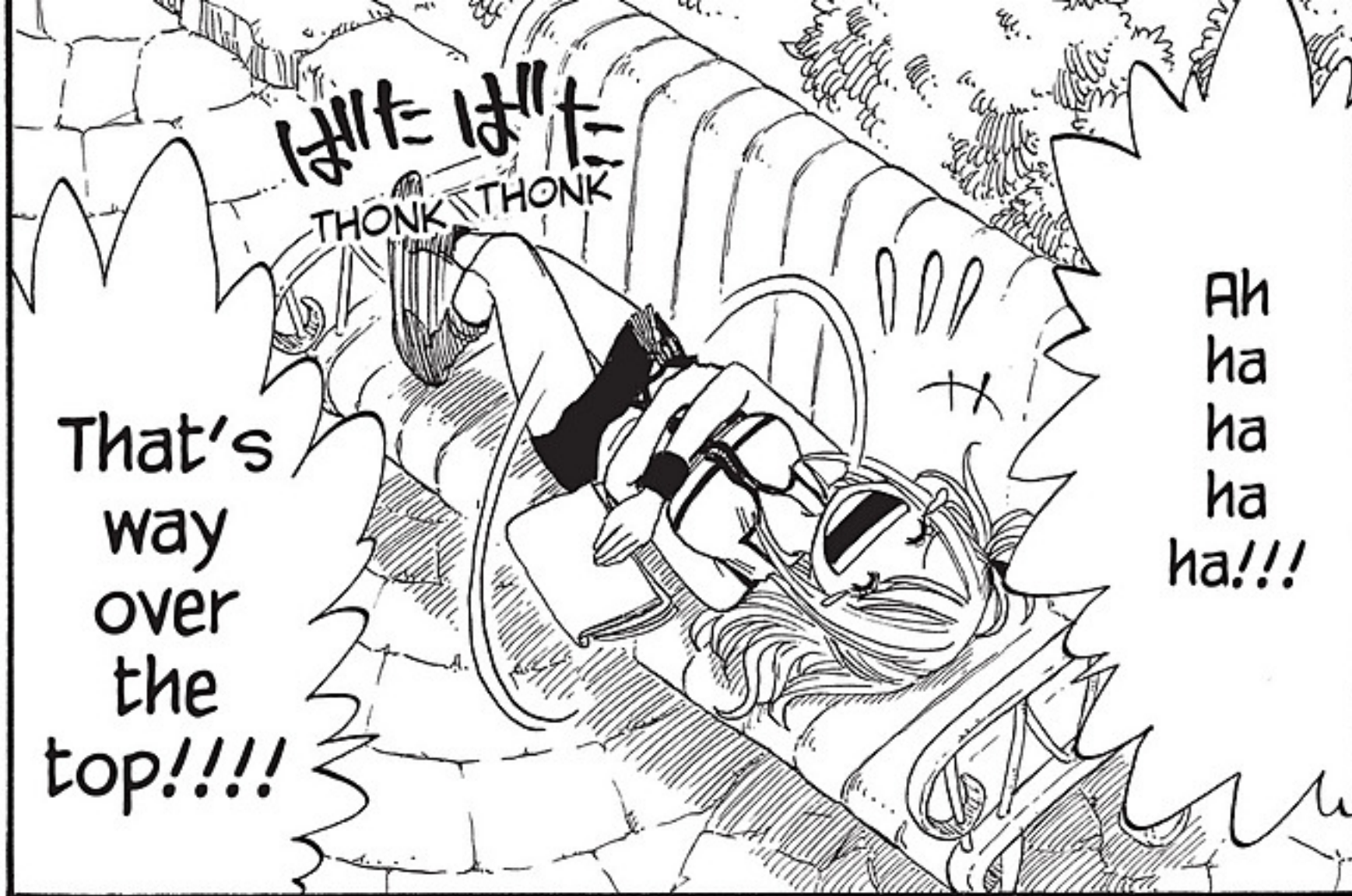






It's a pinup section devoted to Mirajane.

Ah!



That's way over the top!!!!

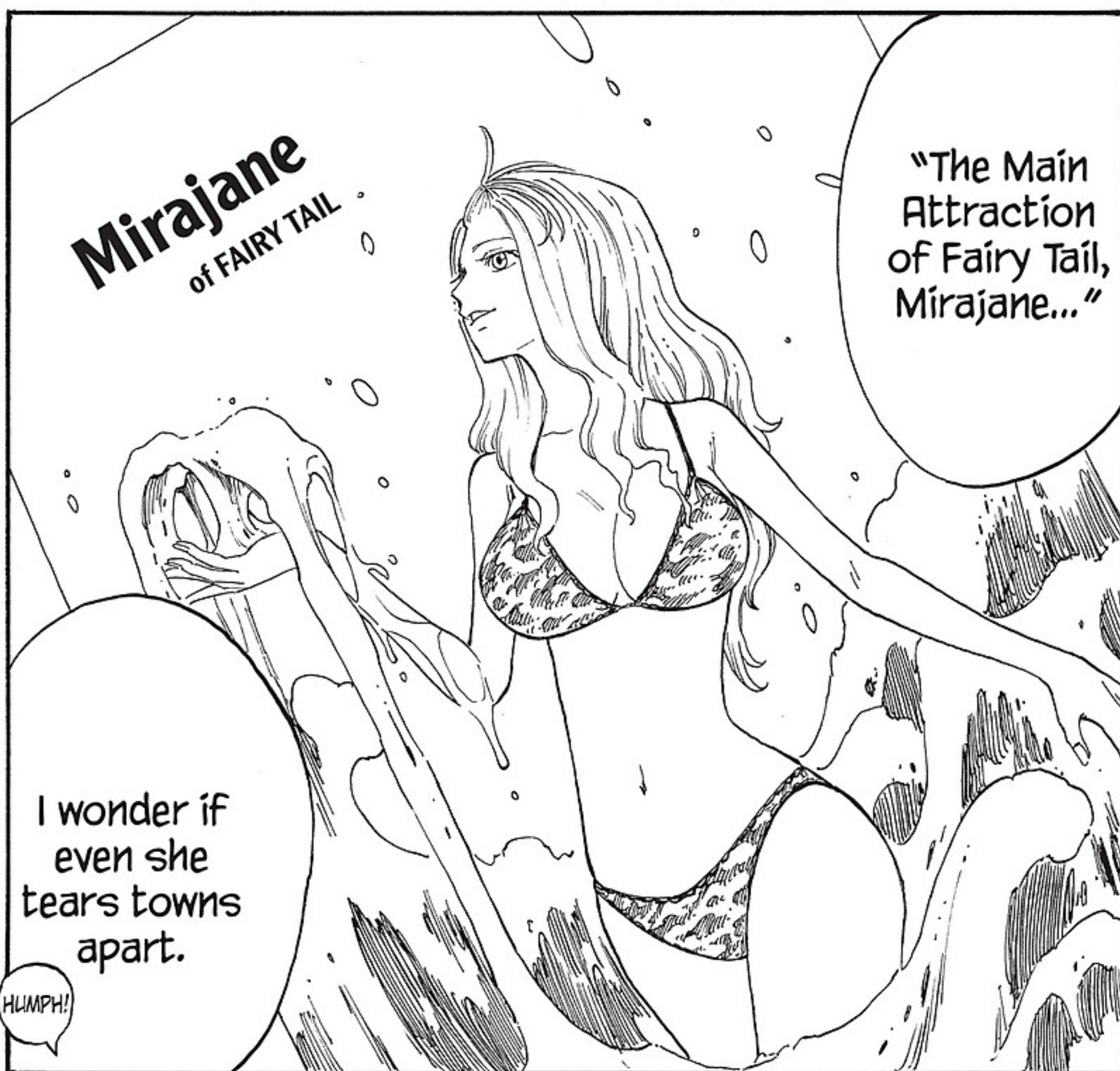
Ah ha ha ha ha!!!



The question is, how do I get in?!

You have to be an amazing wizard, or it's no dice, huh?

Can't they just give interviews?!

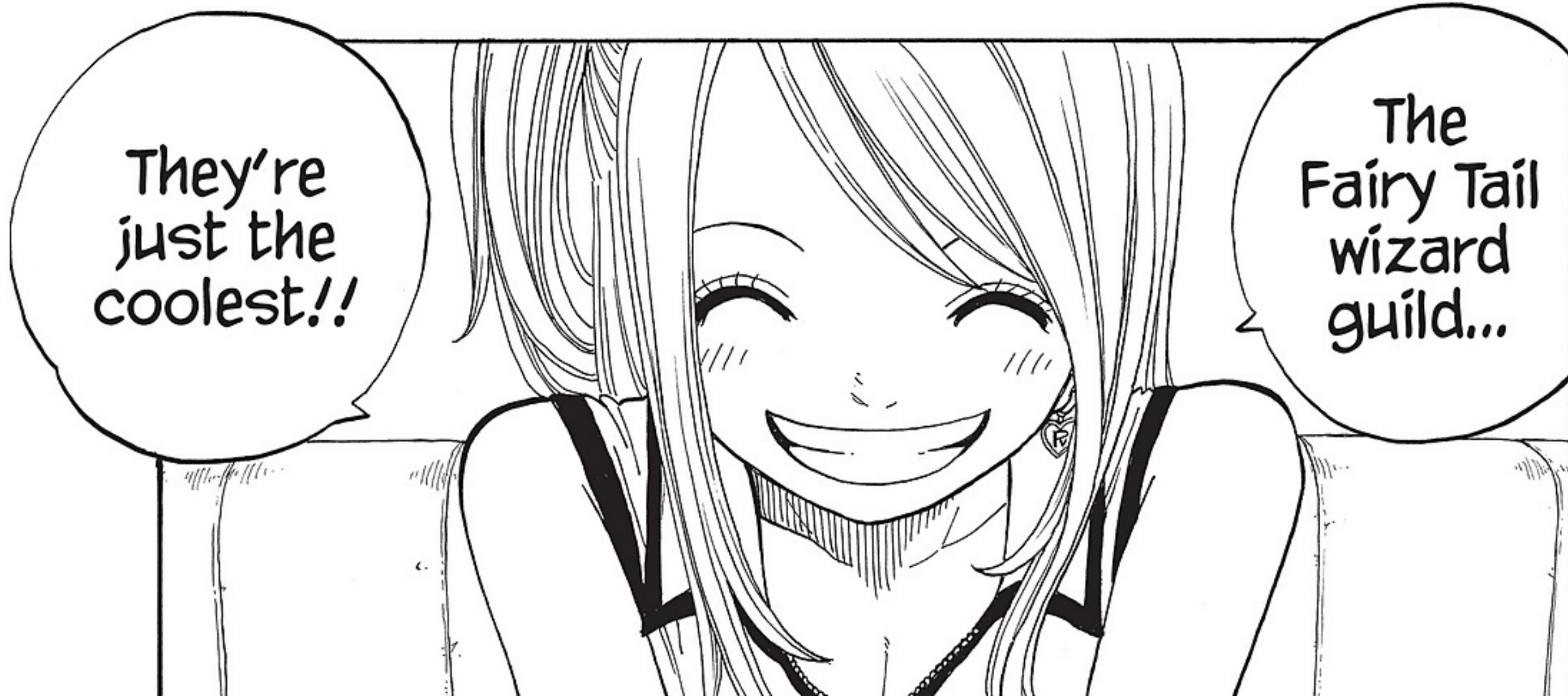


Mirajane
of FAIRY TAIL

"The Main Attraction of Fairy Tail, Mirajane..."

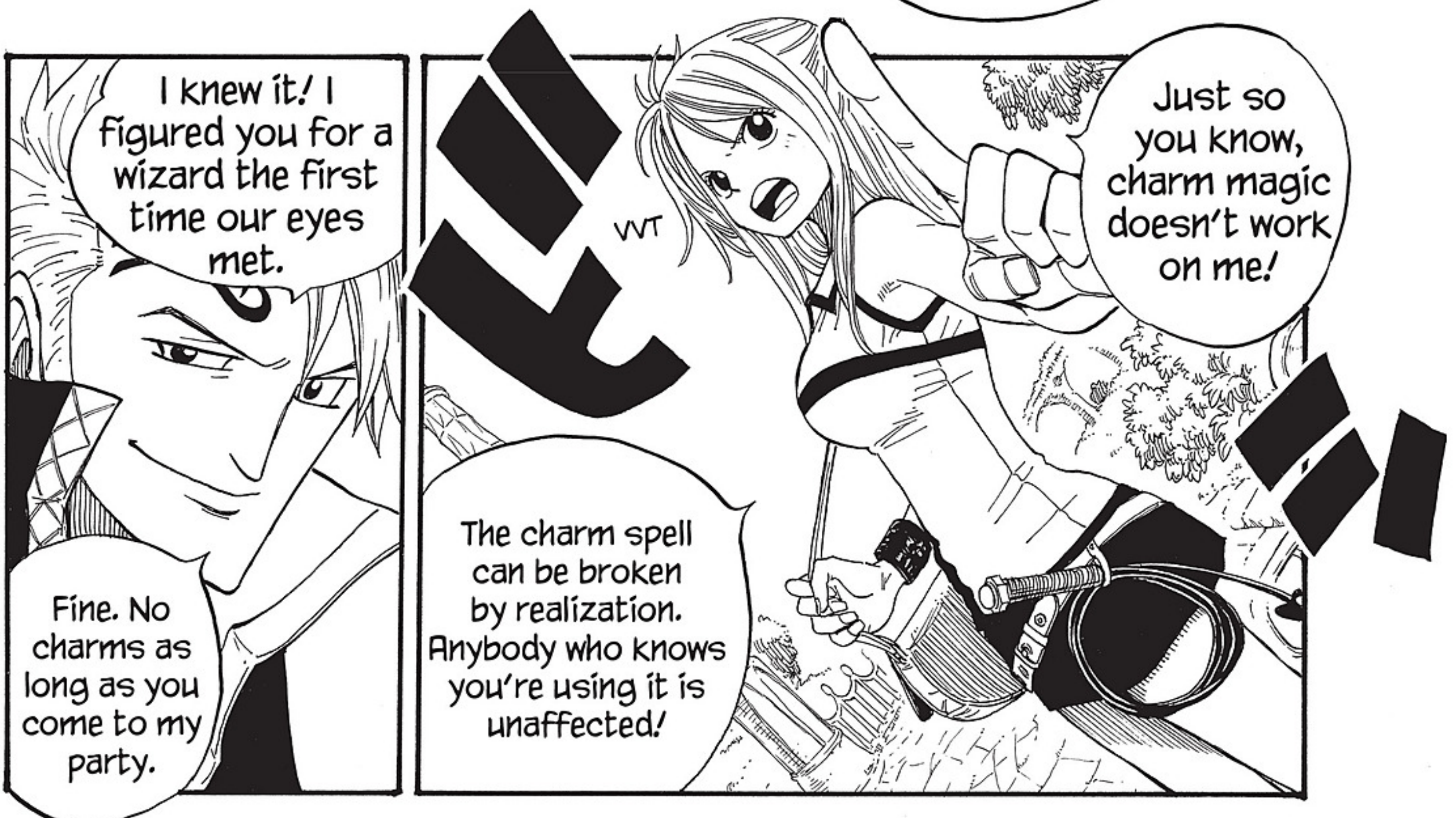
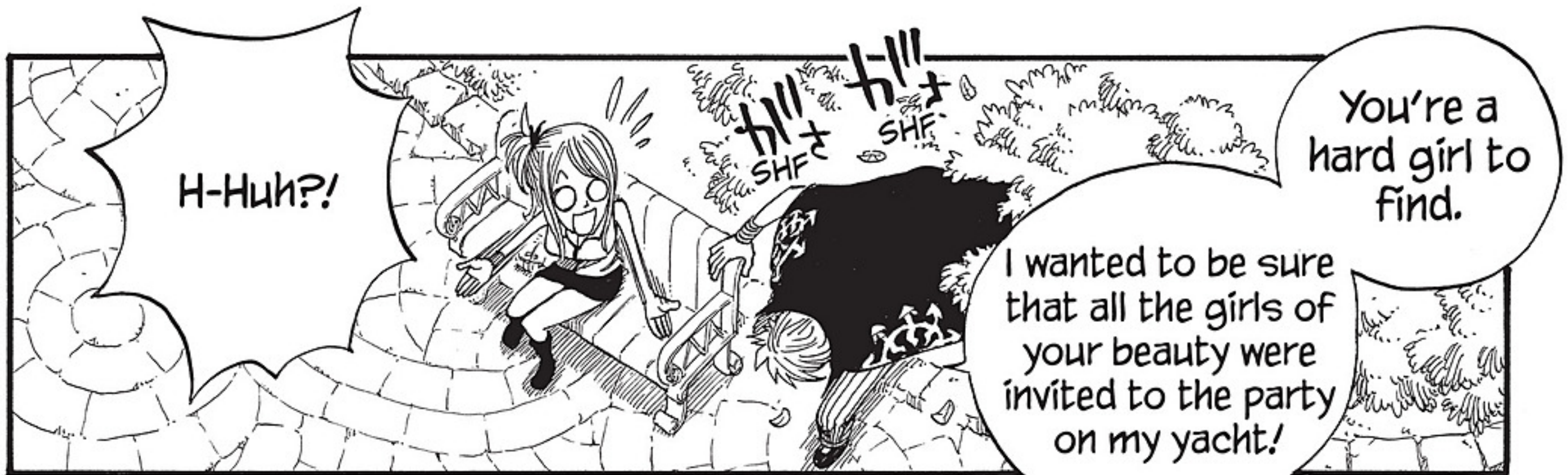
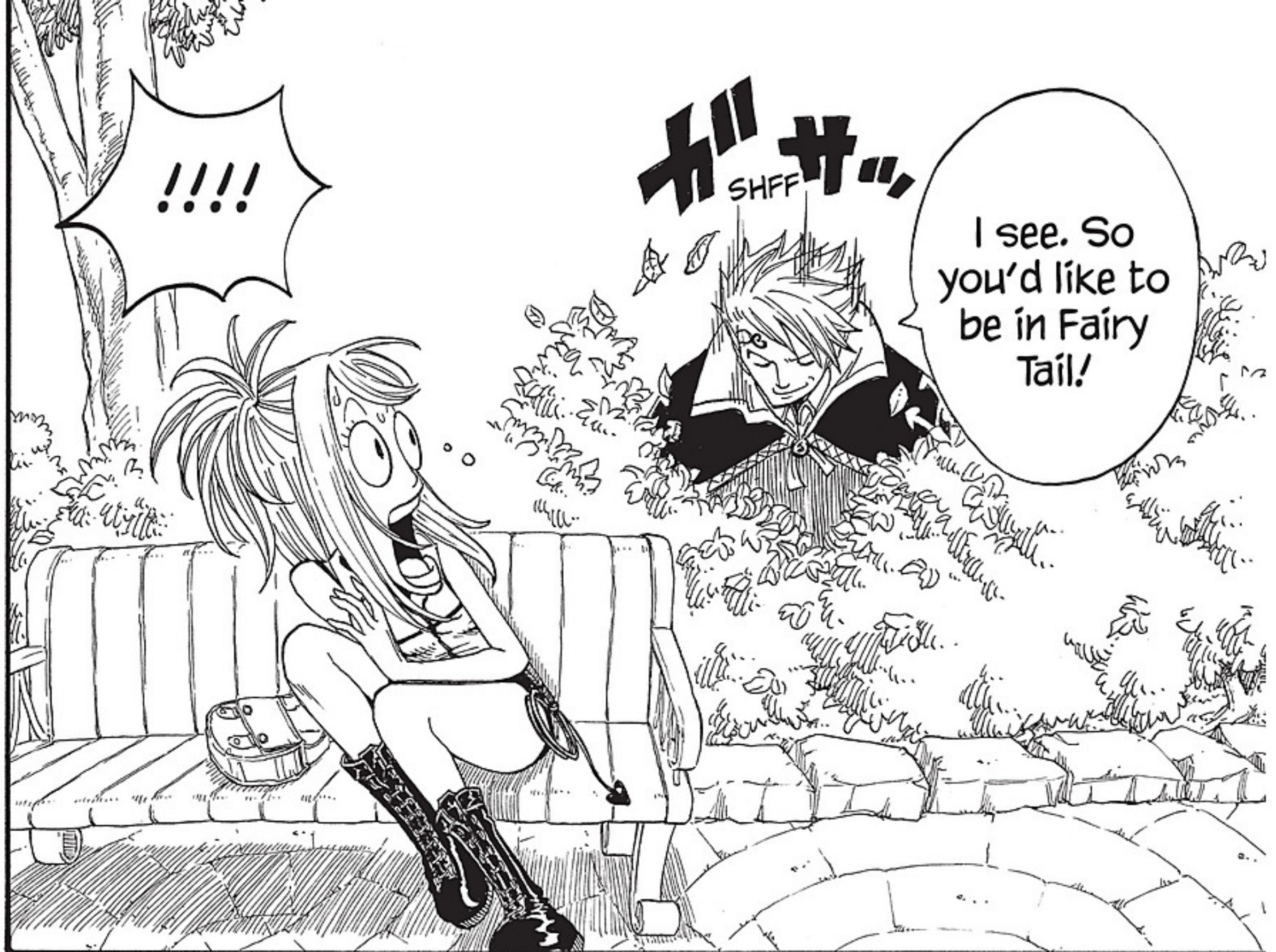
I wonder if even she tears towns apart.

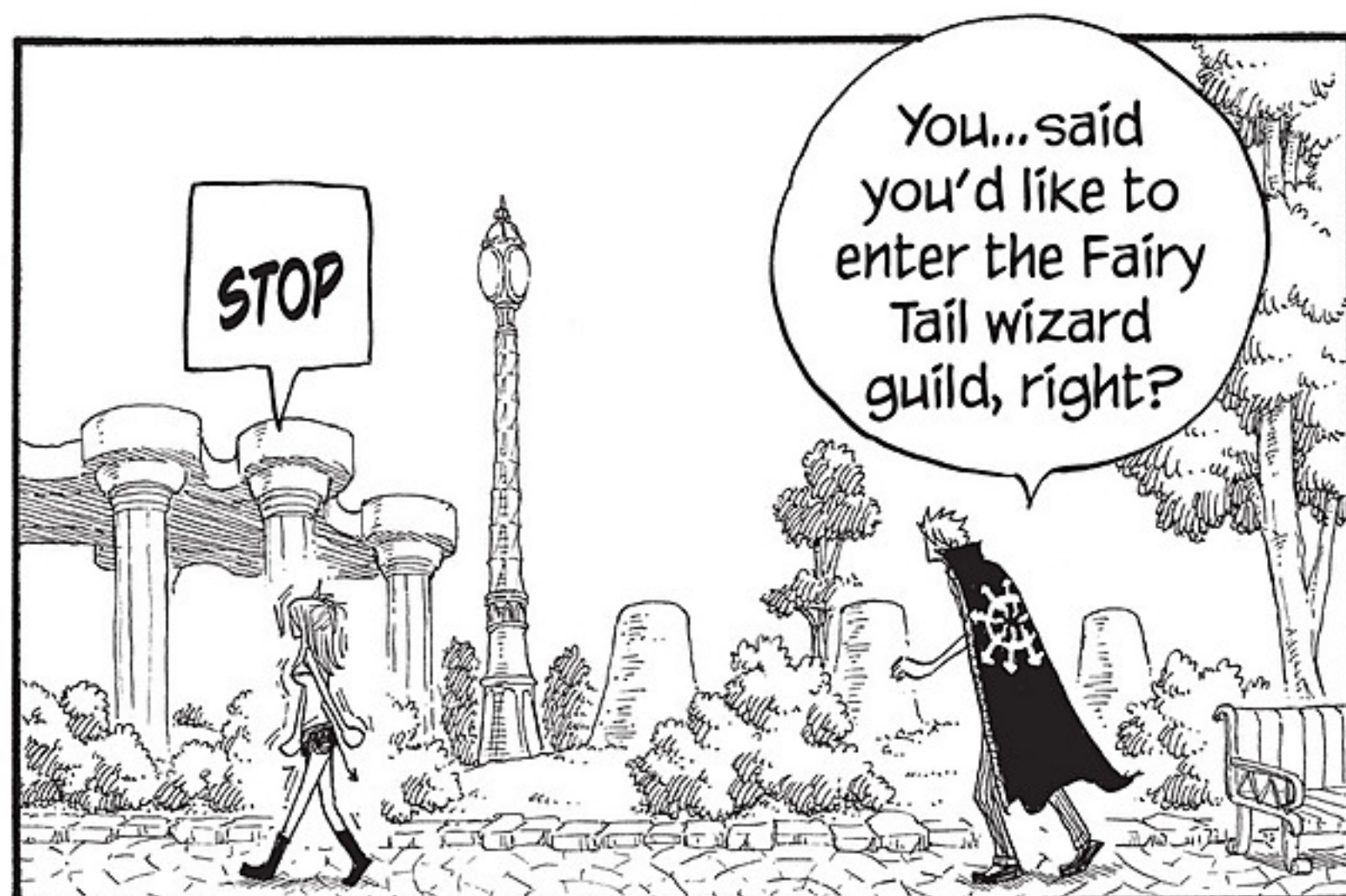
HUMPH!

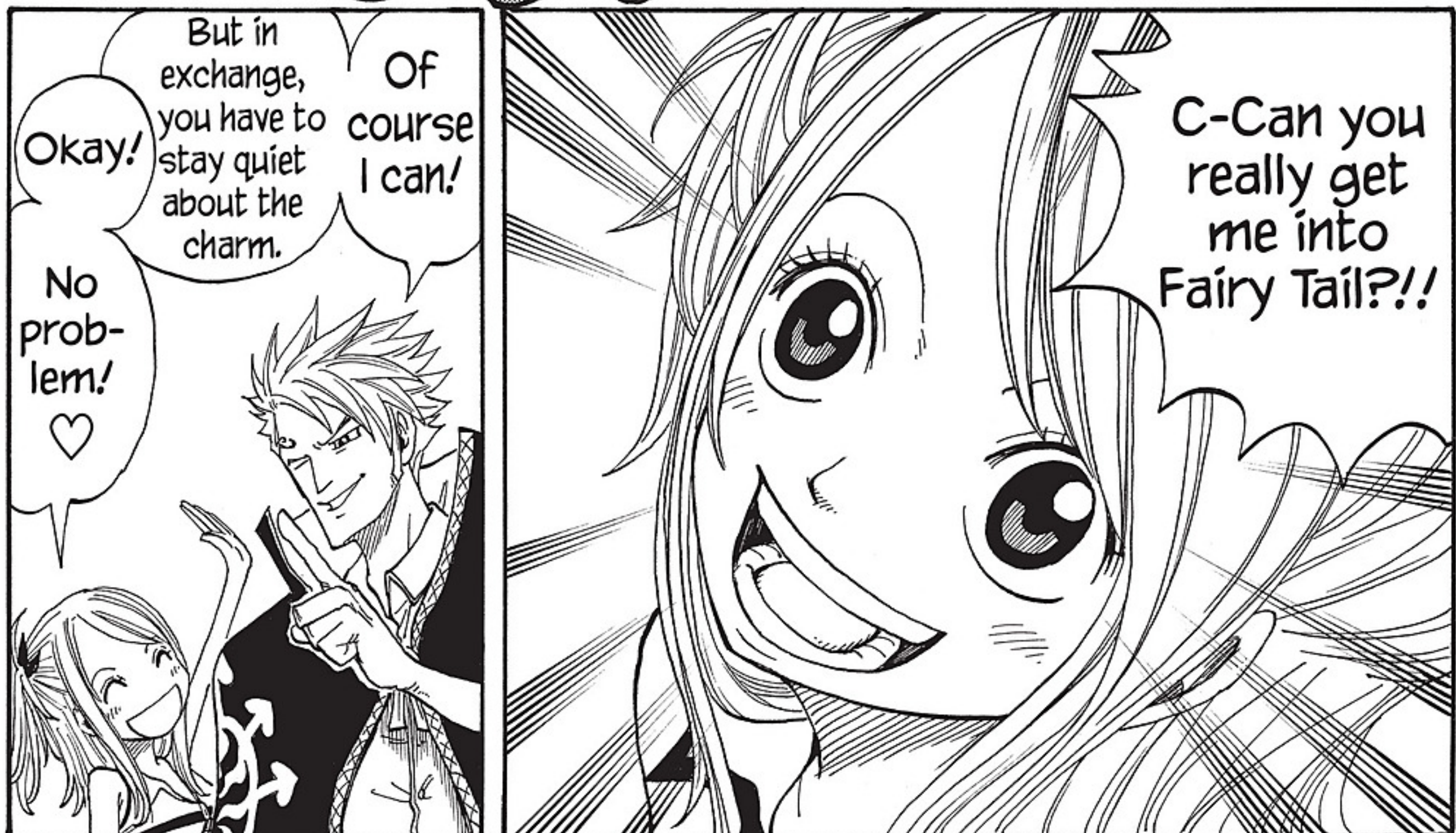
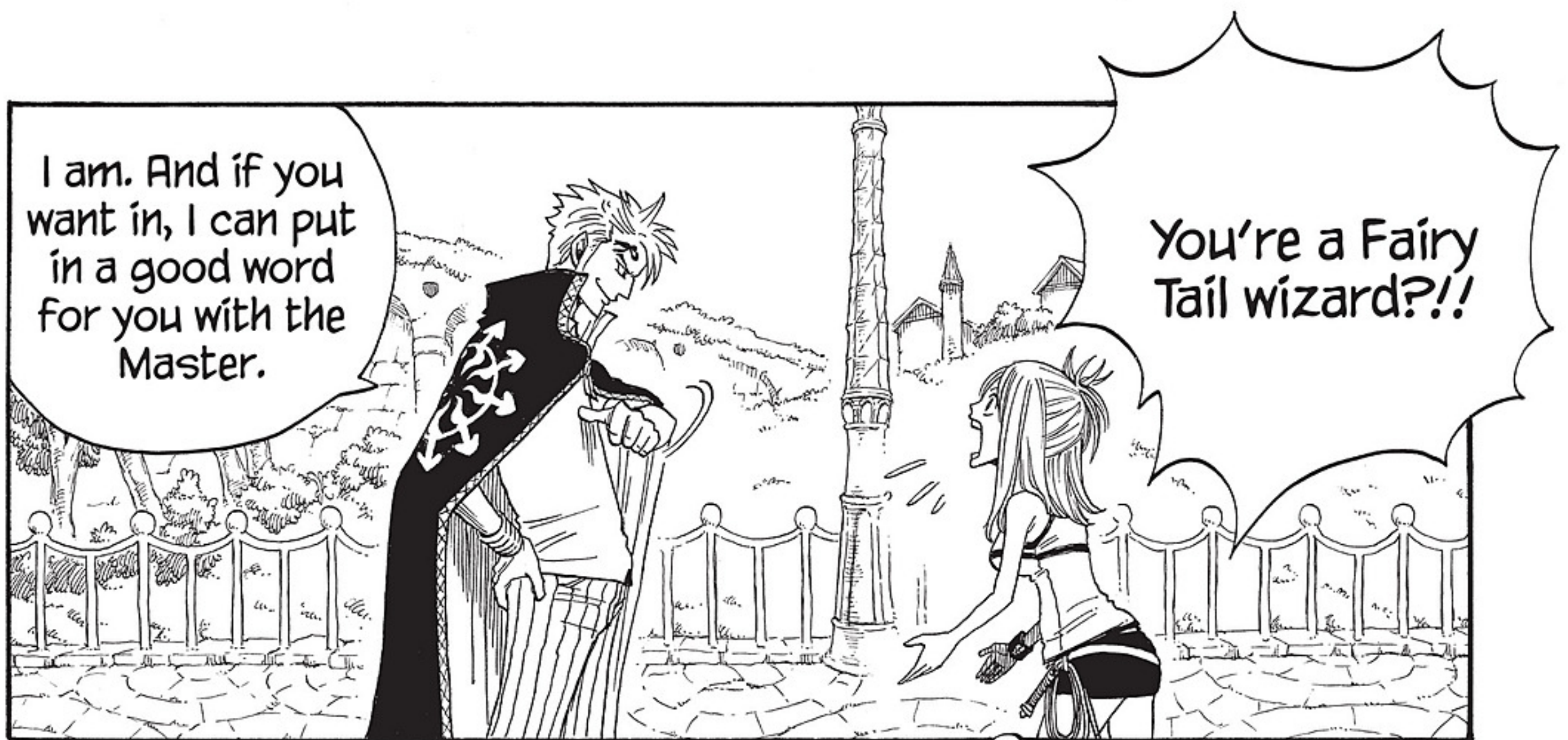


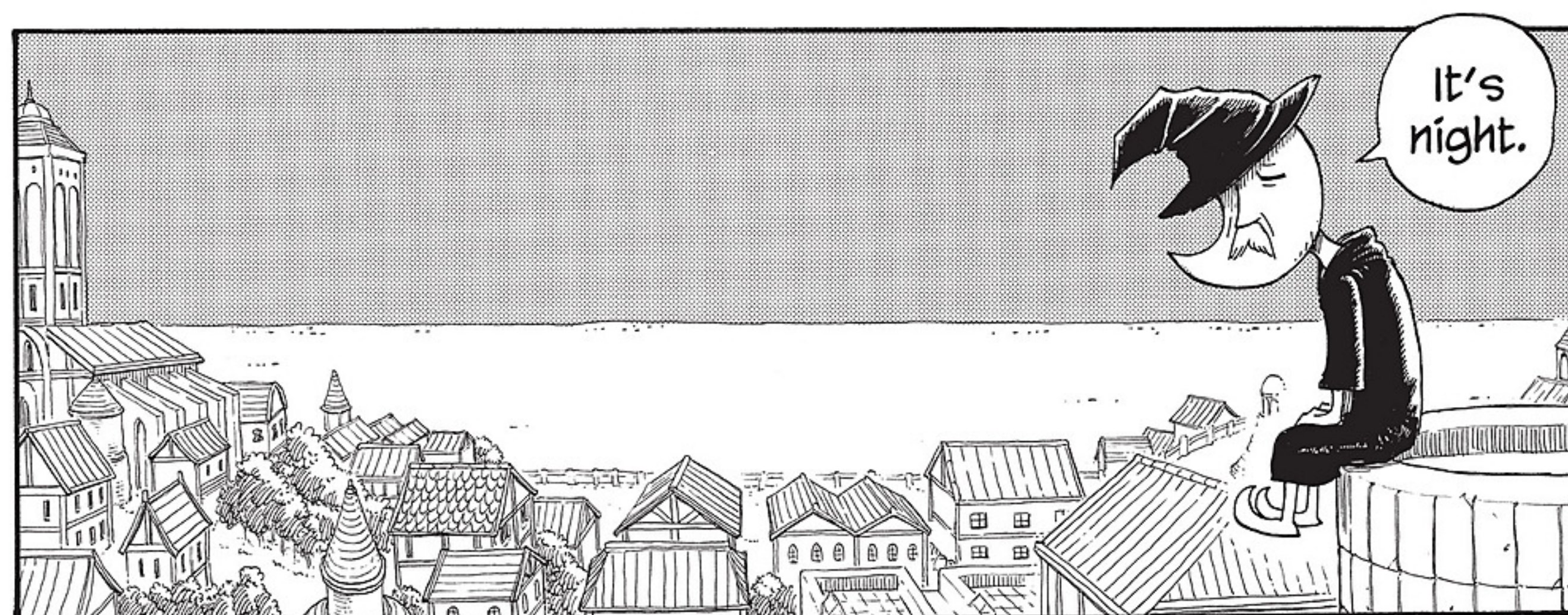
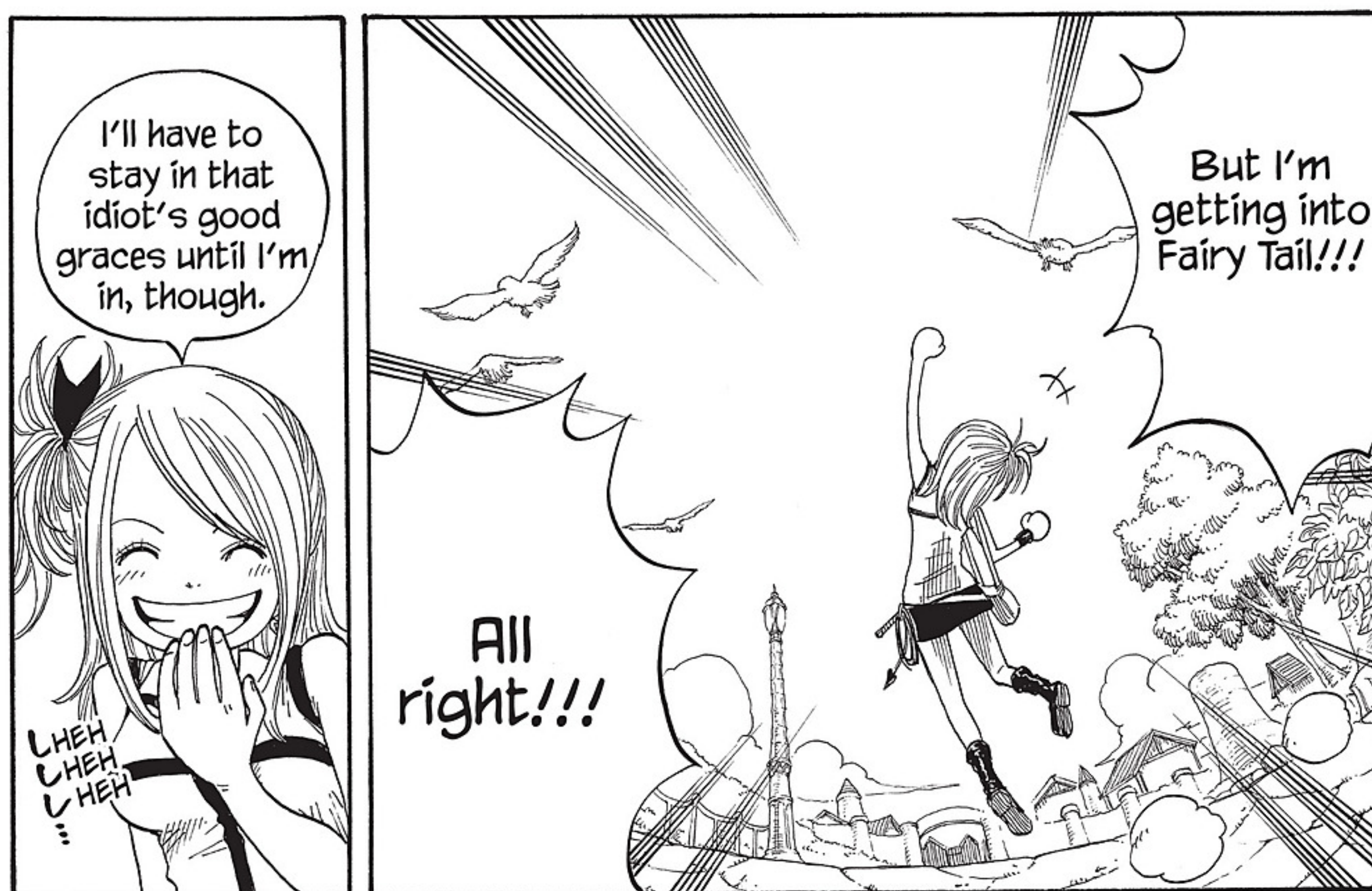
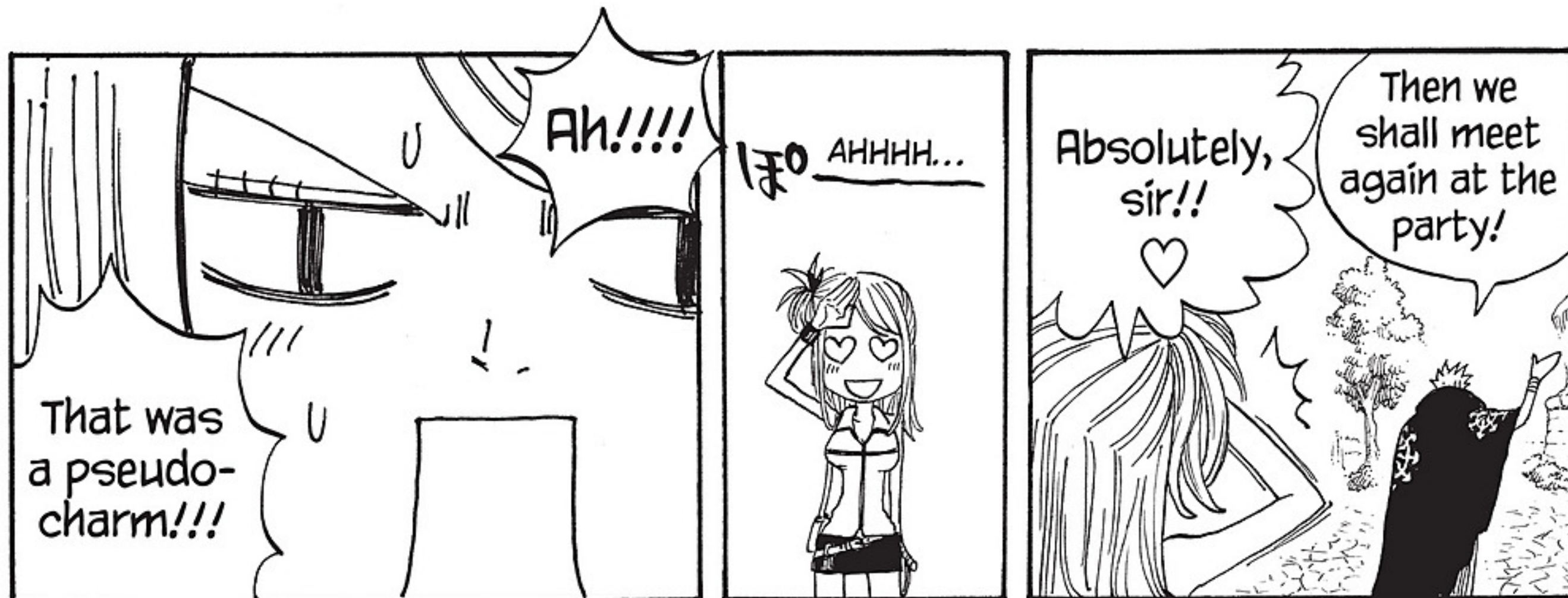
They're just the coolest!!

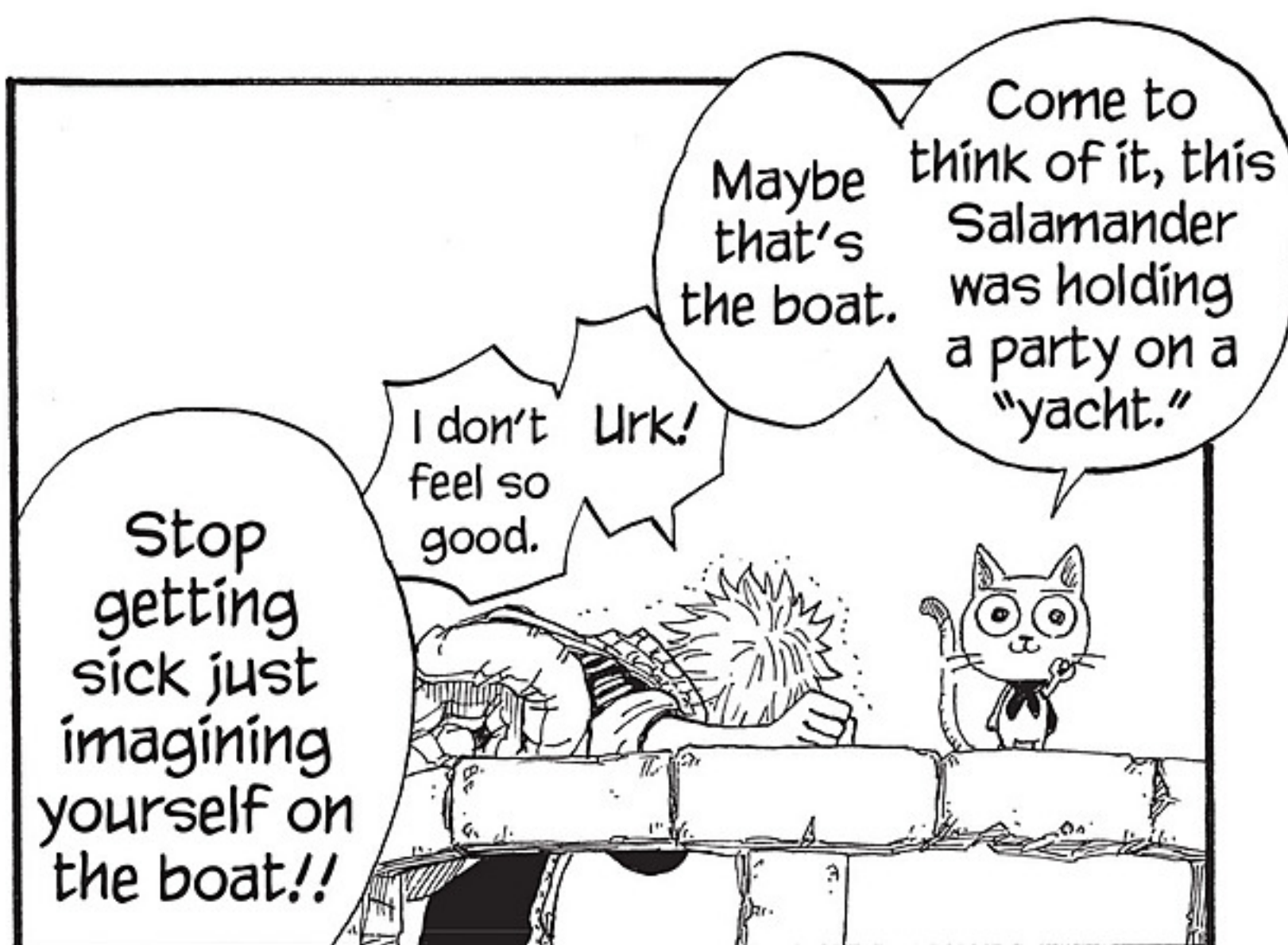
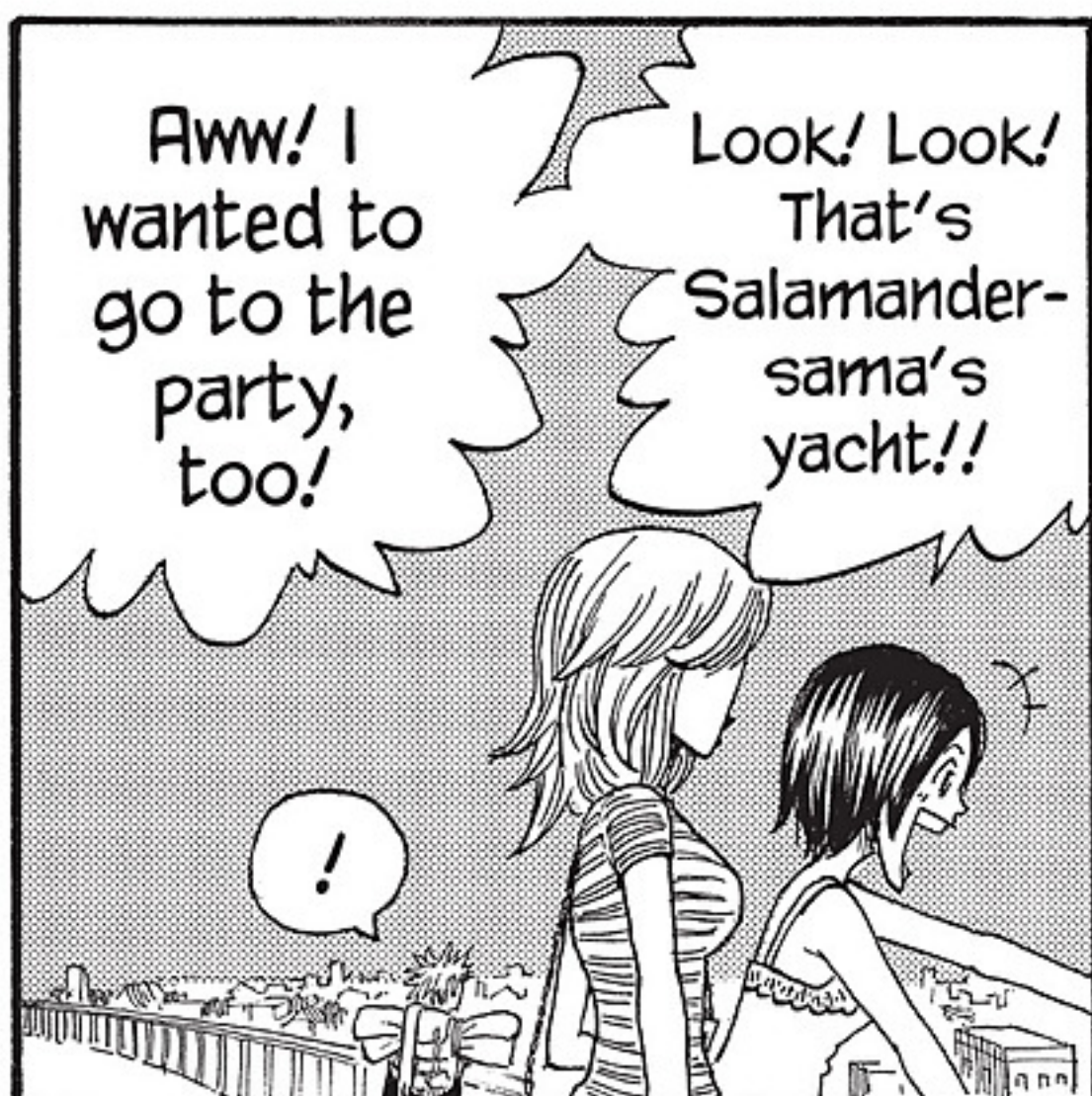
The Fairy Tail wizard guild...

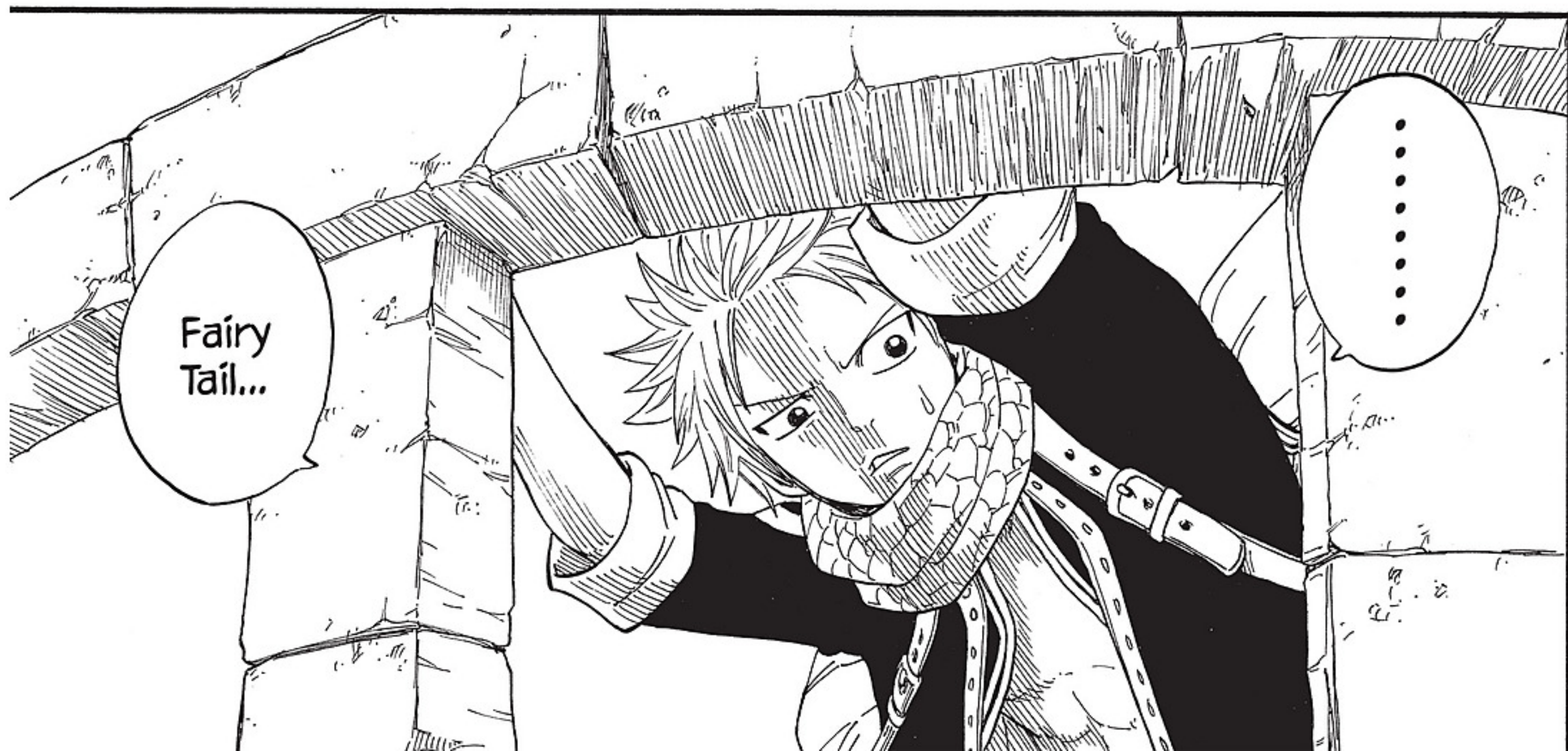


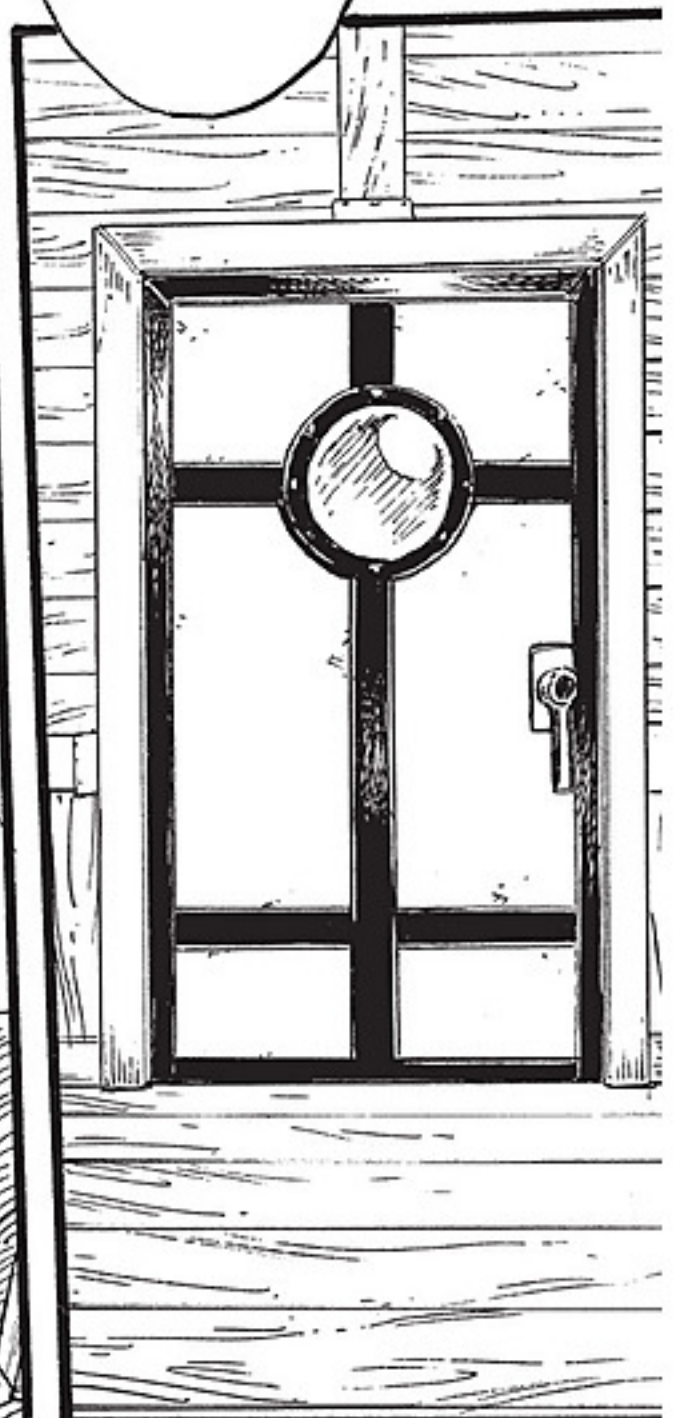
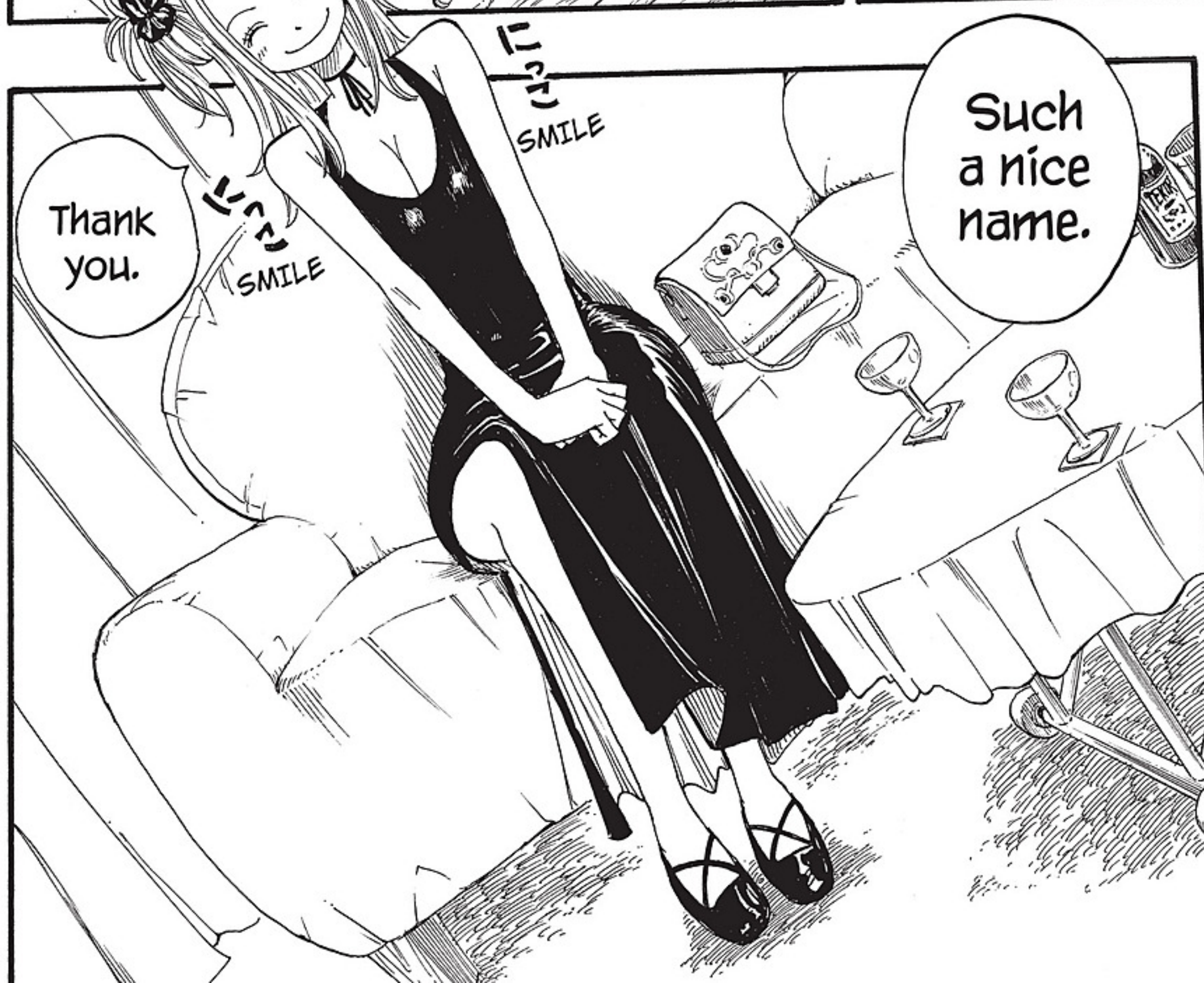
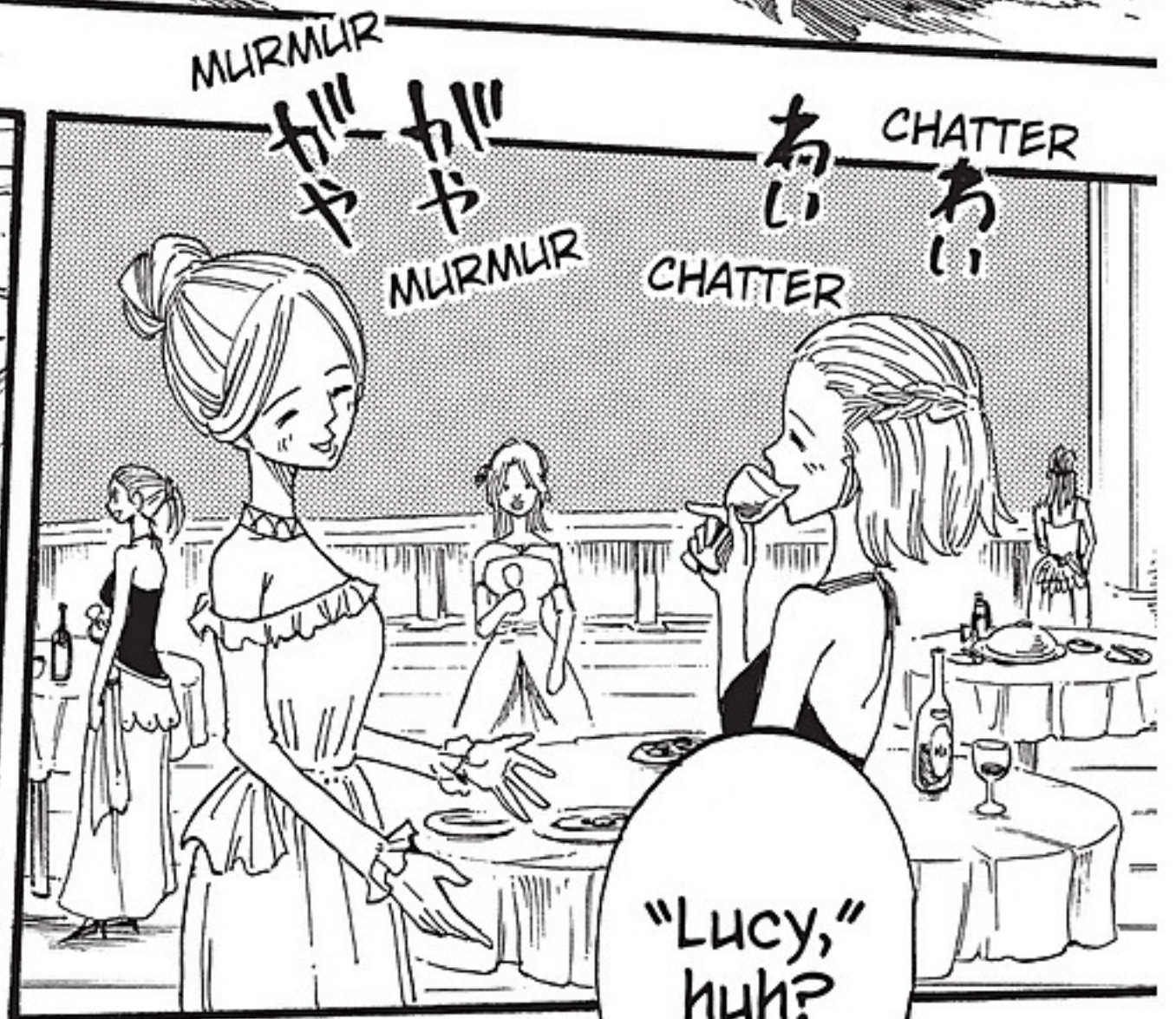
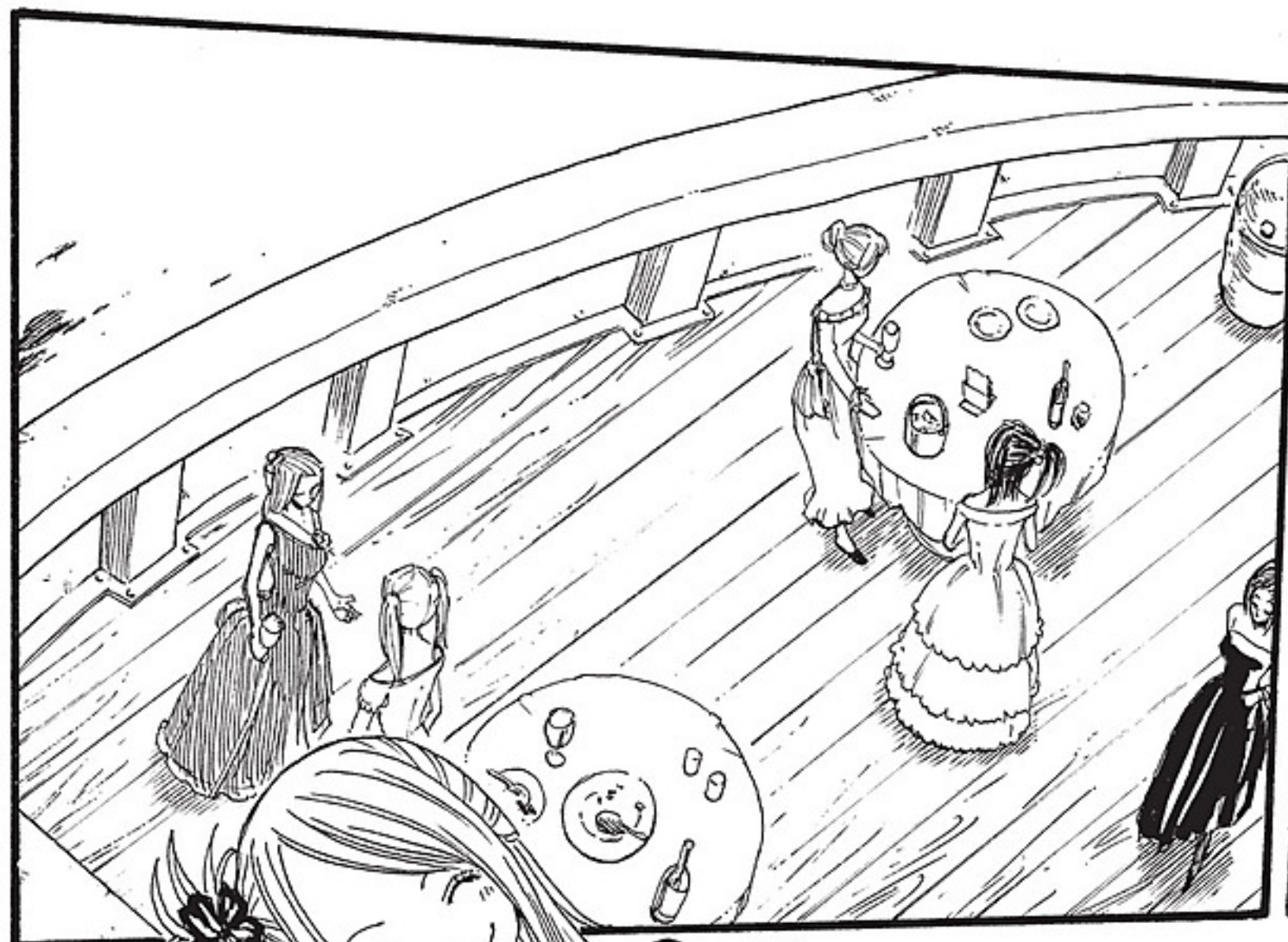
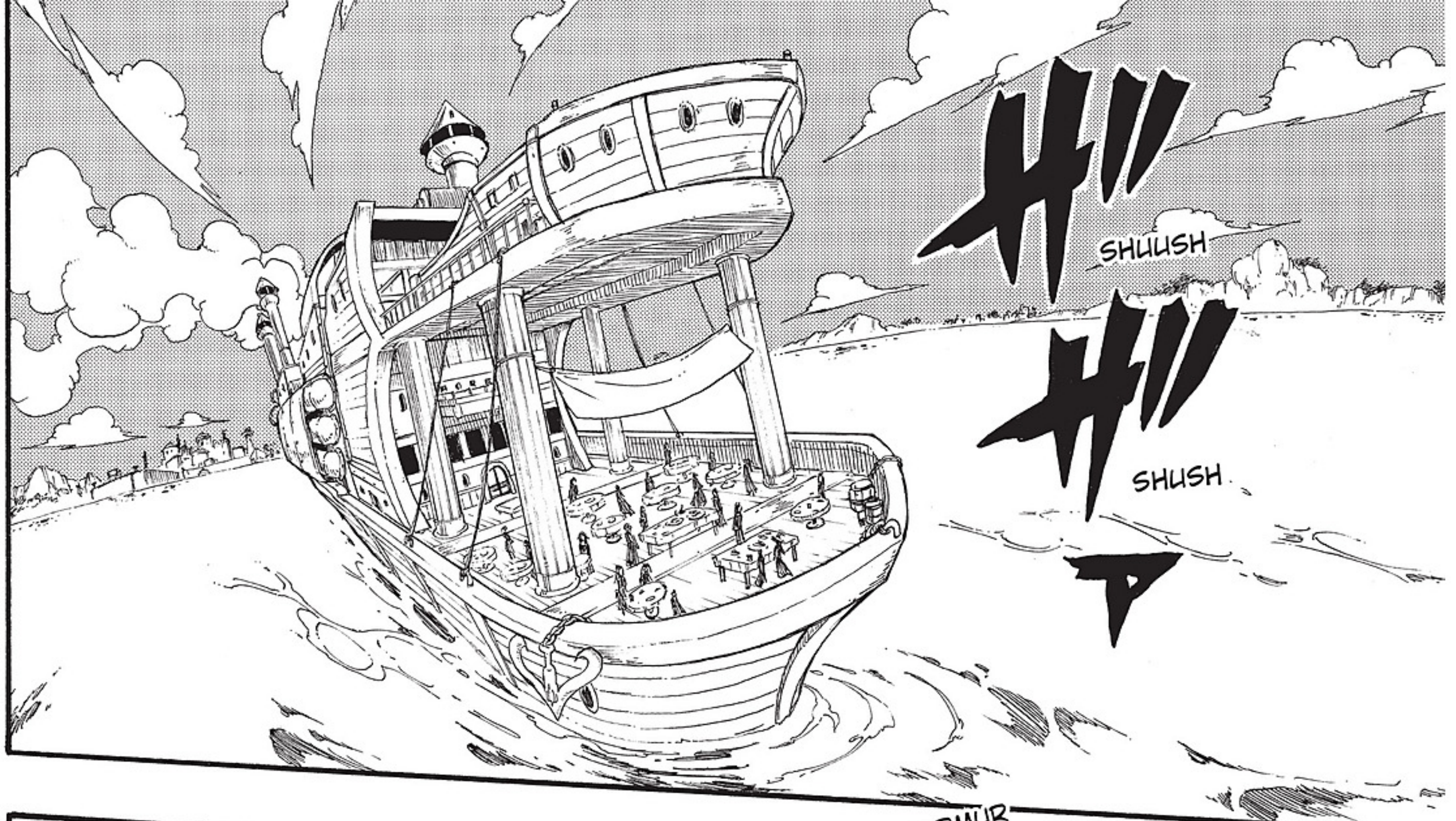


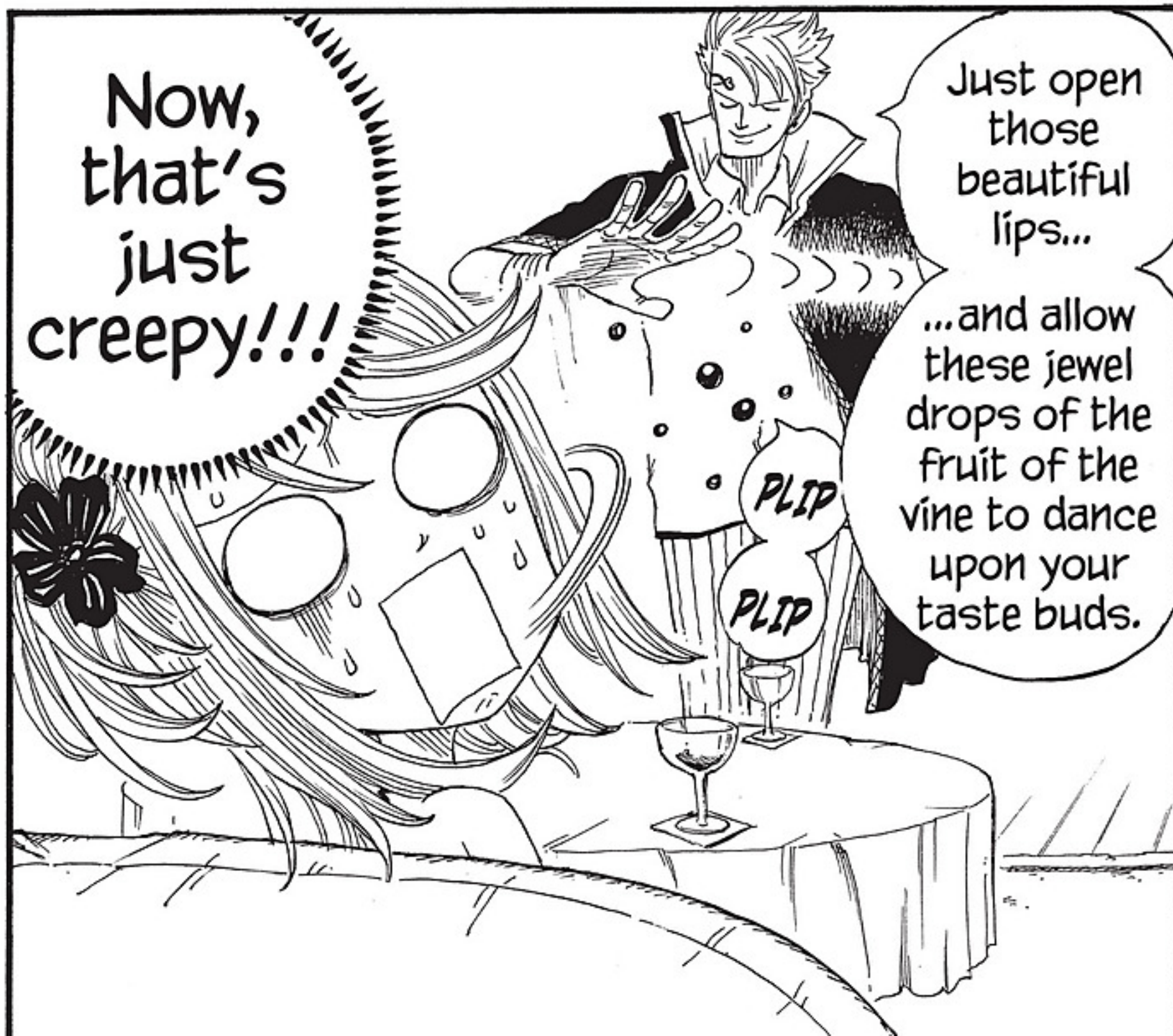
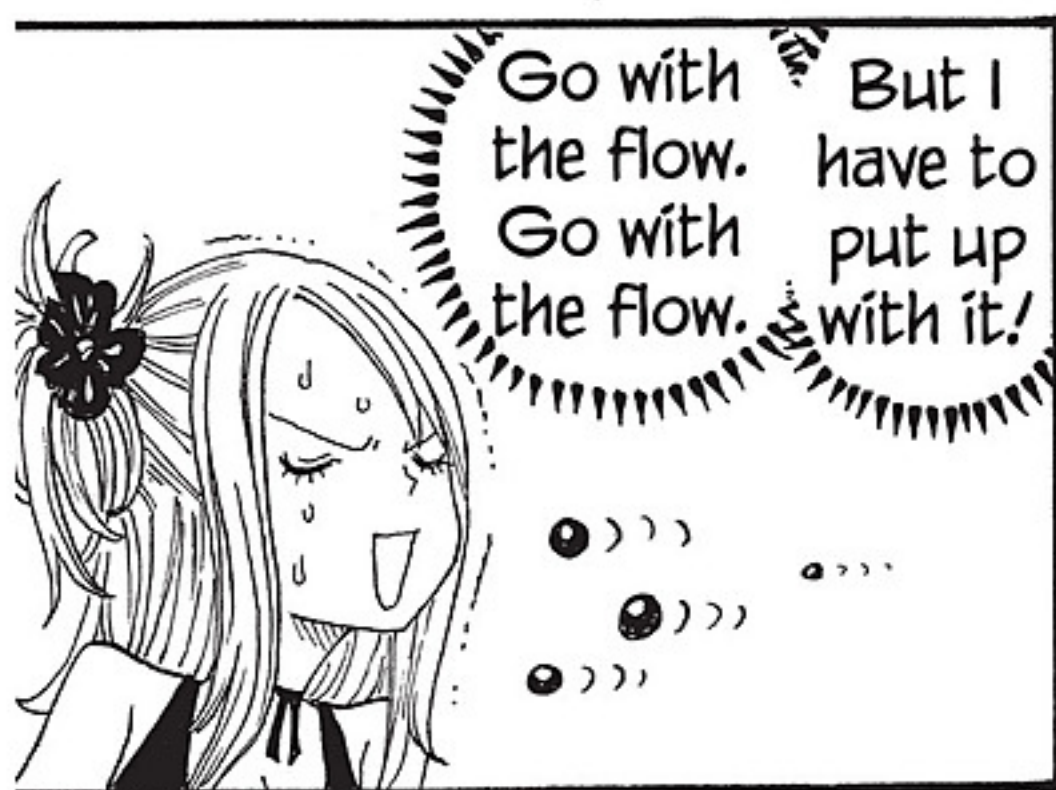
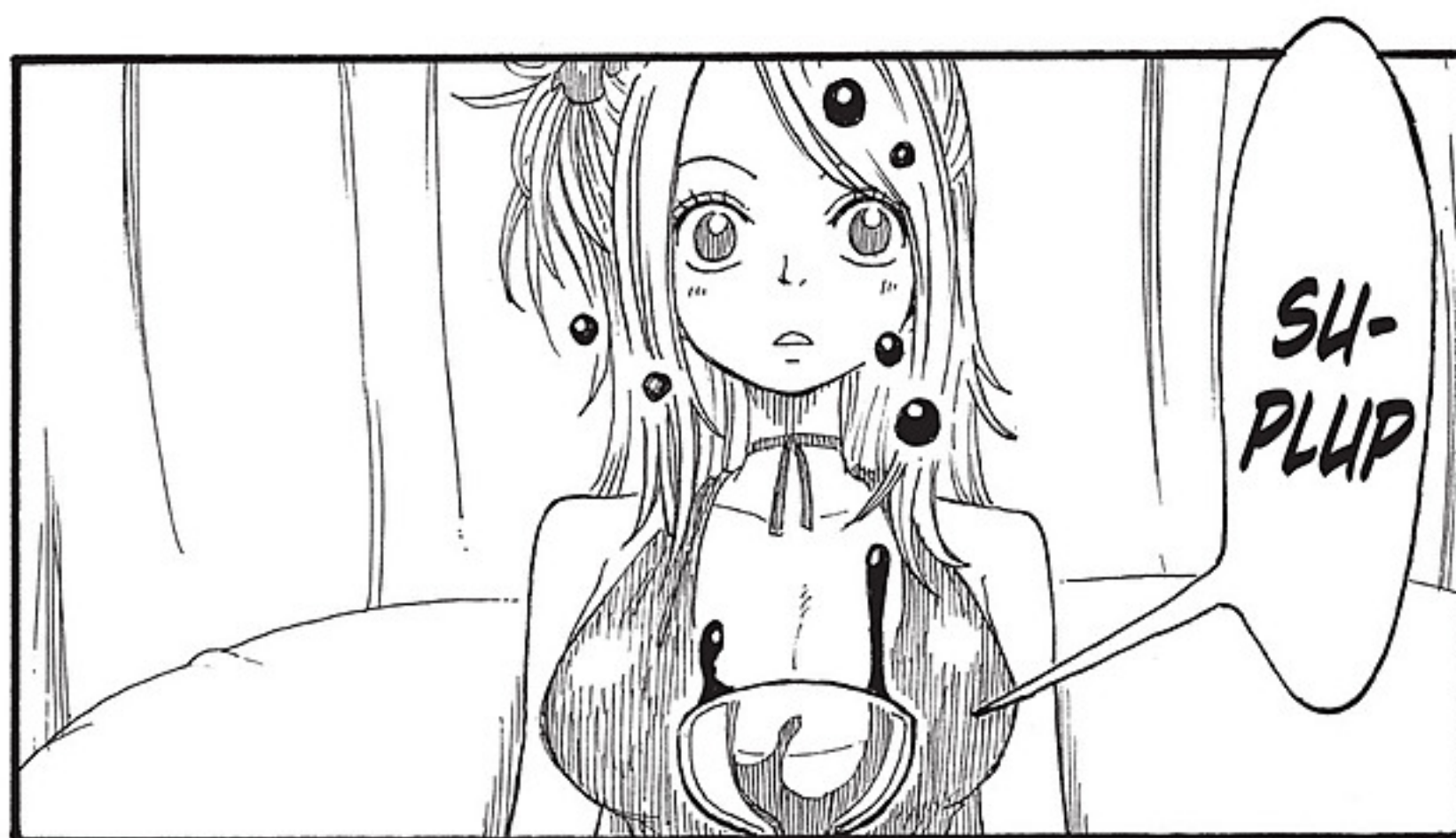
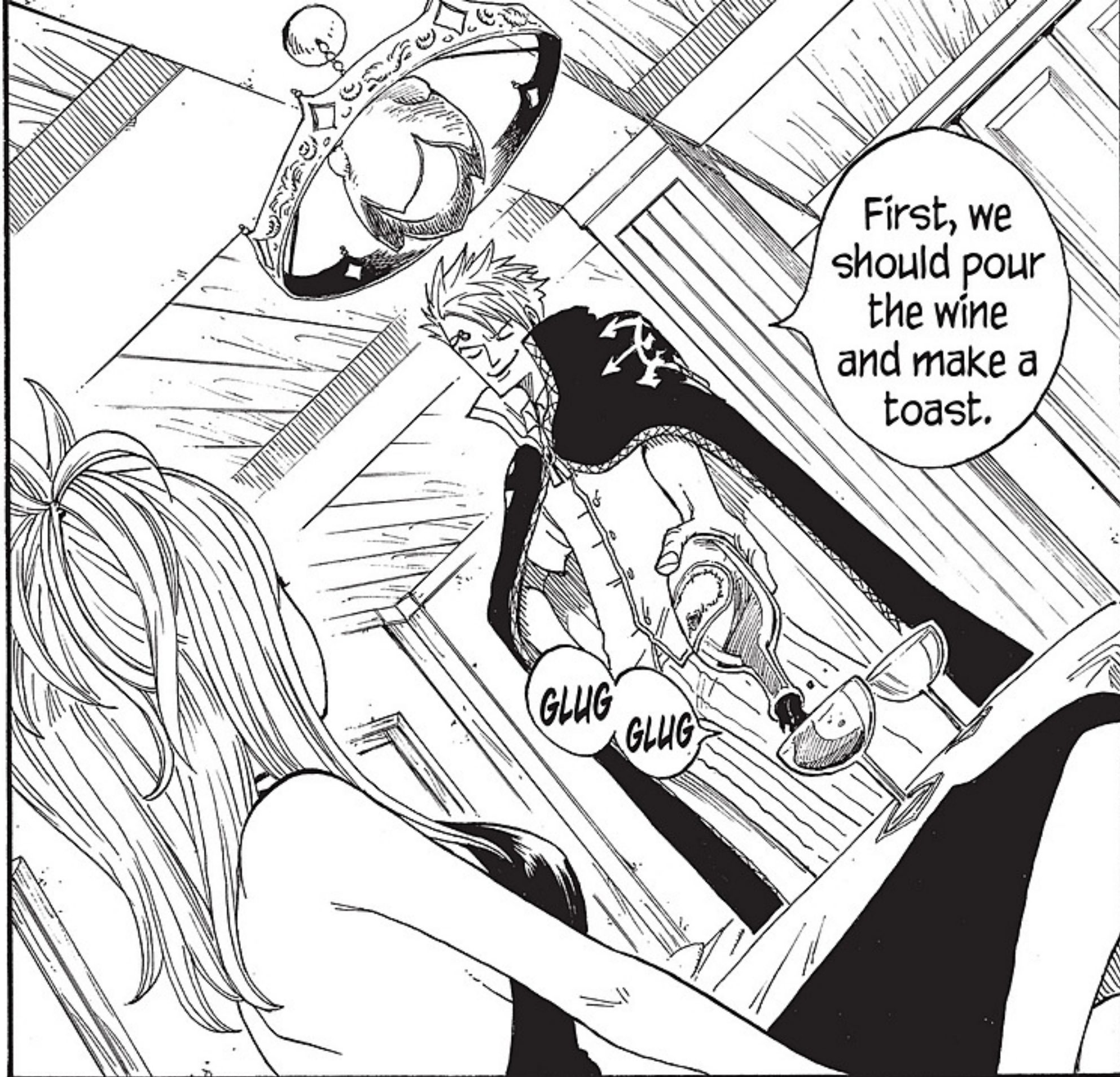
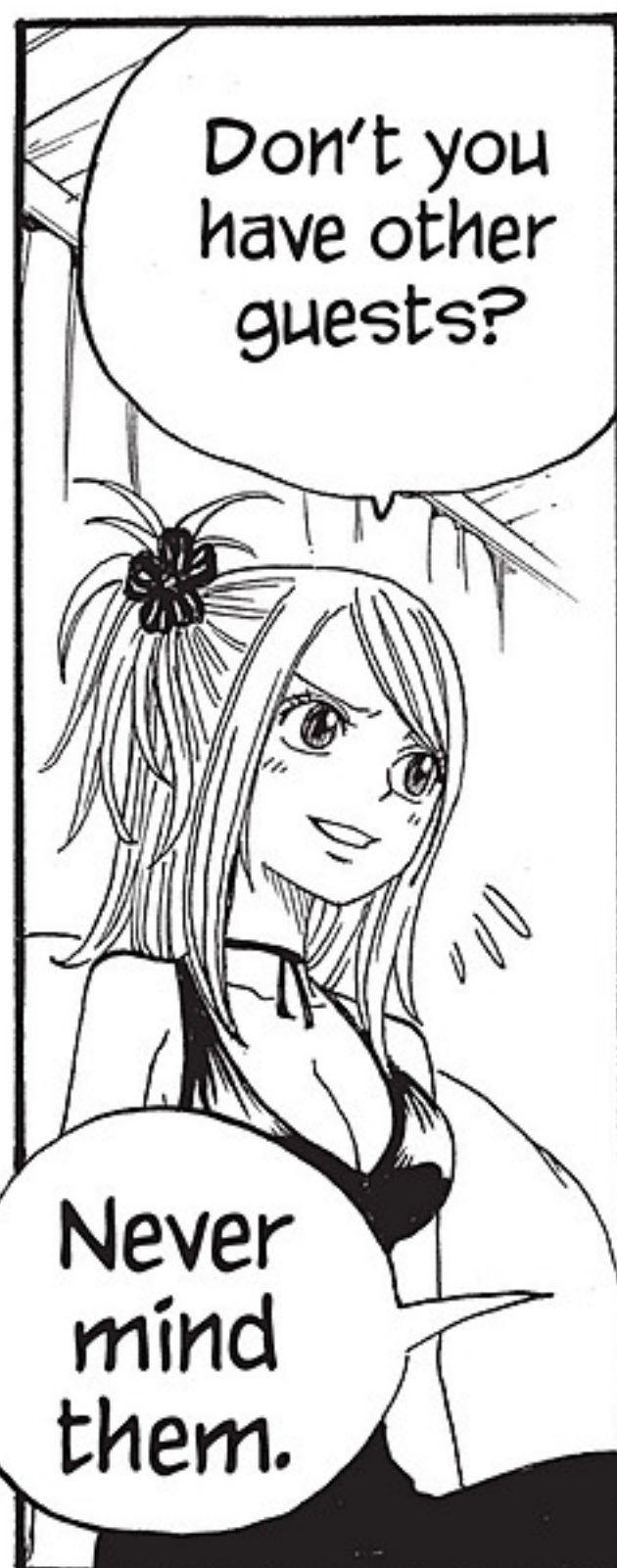


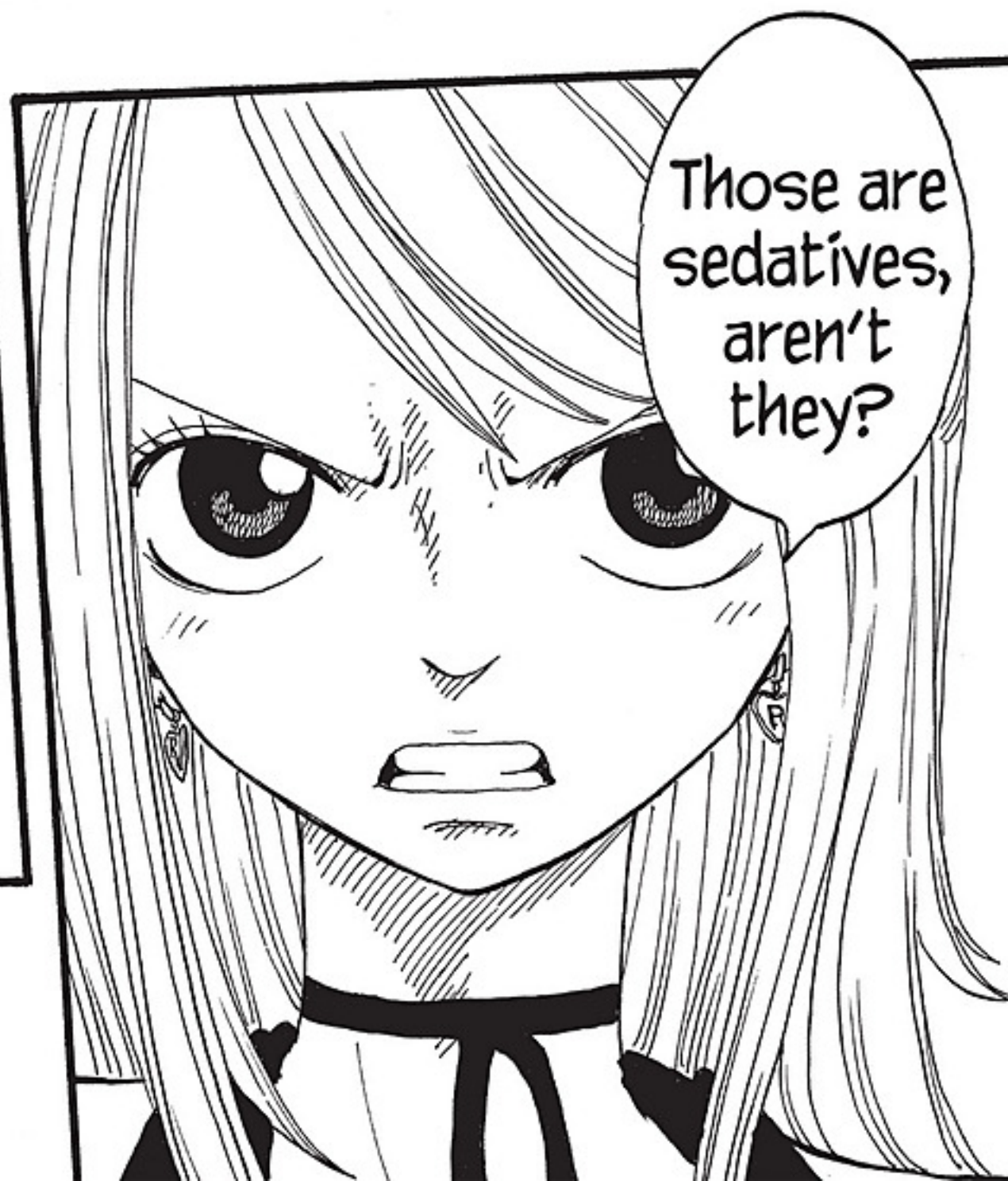
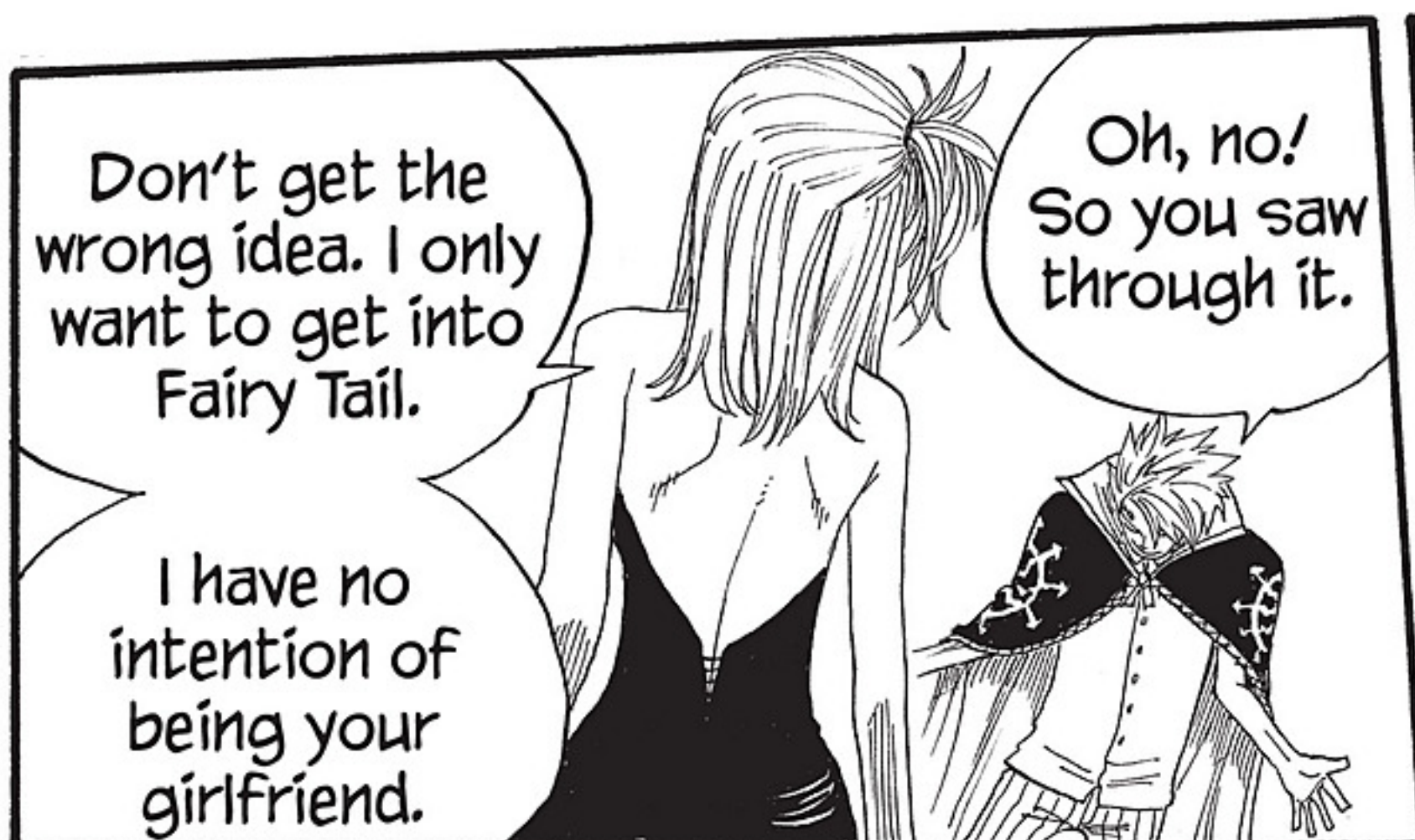
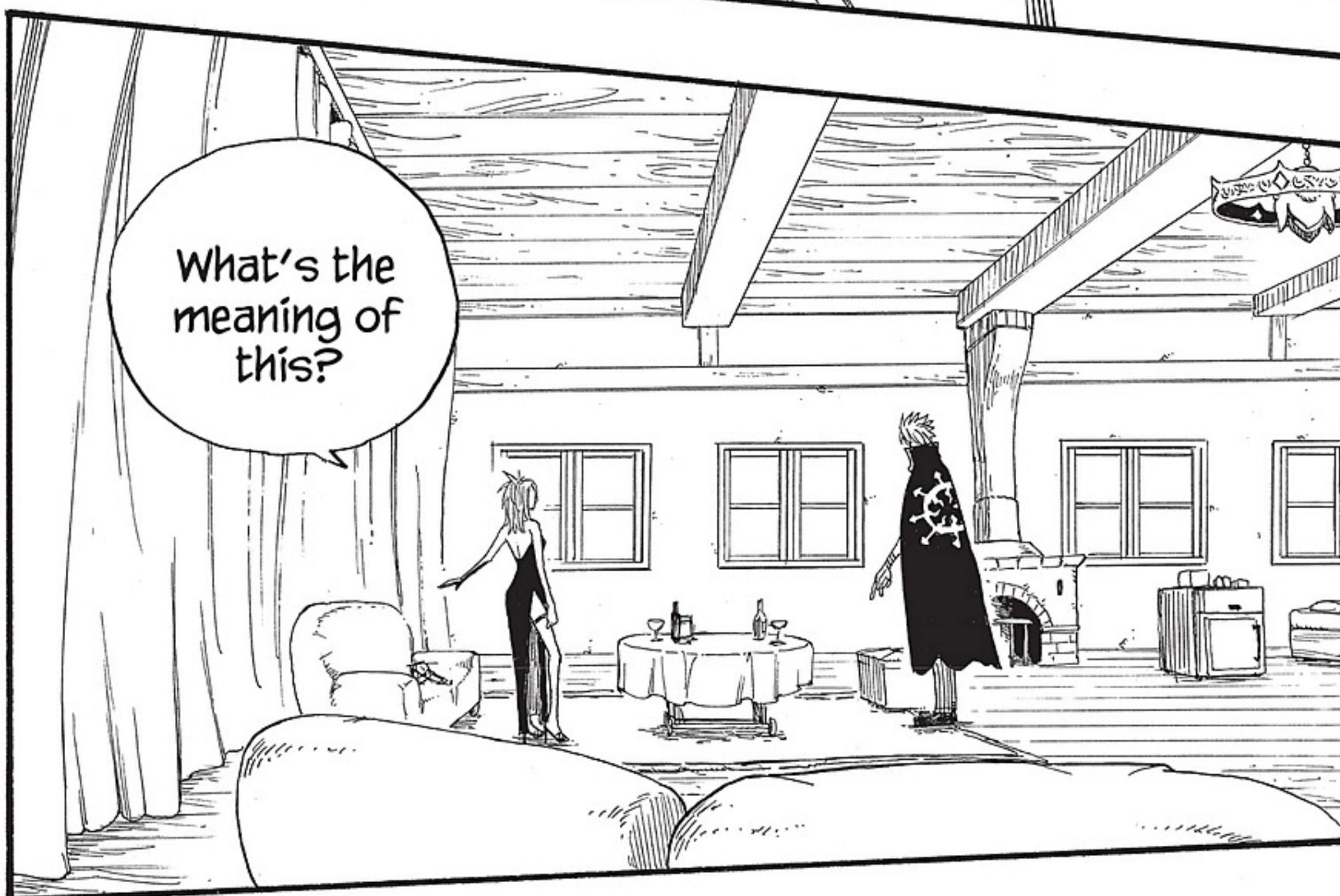
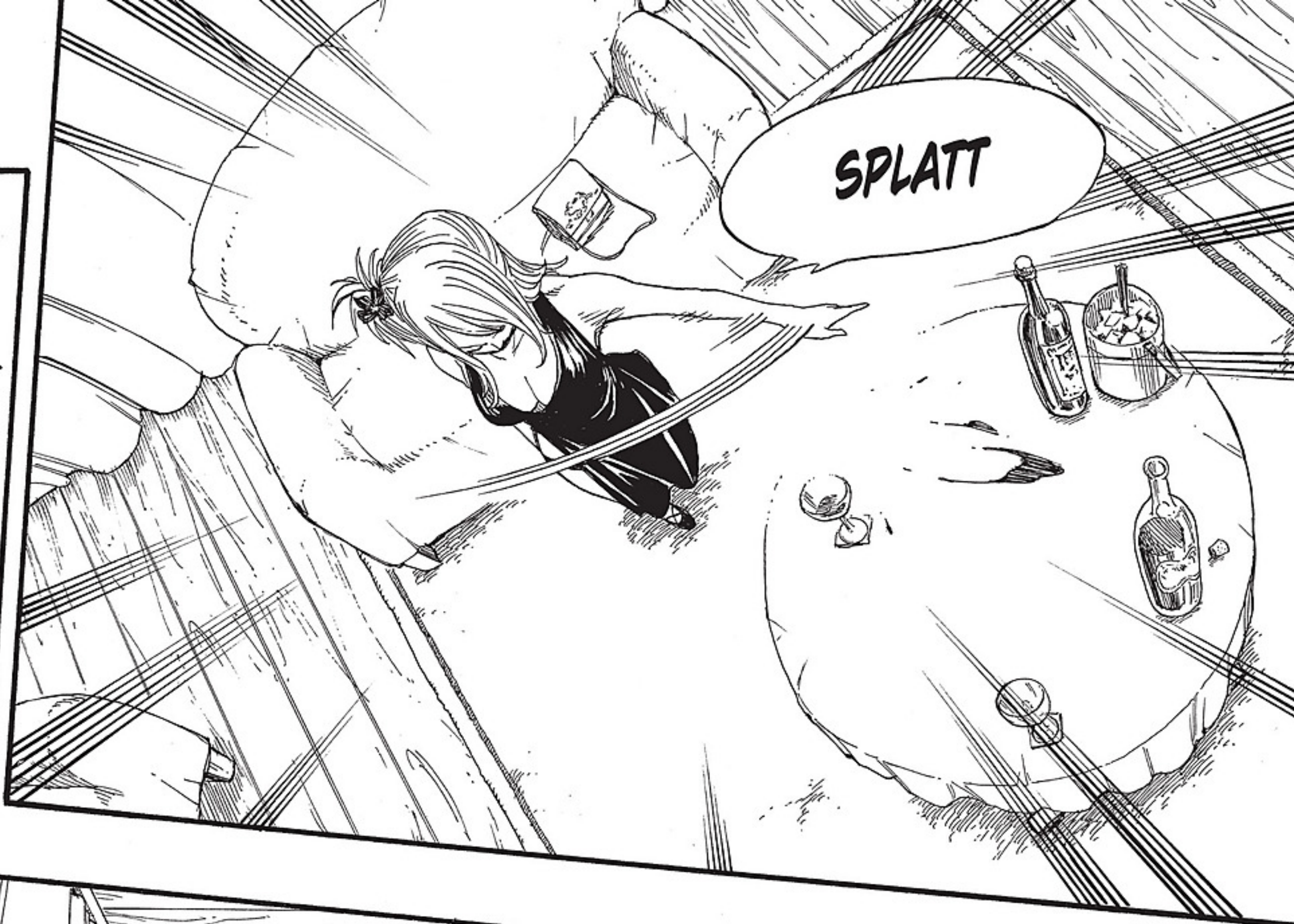


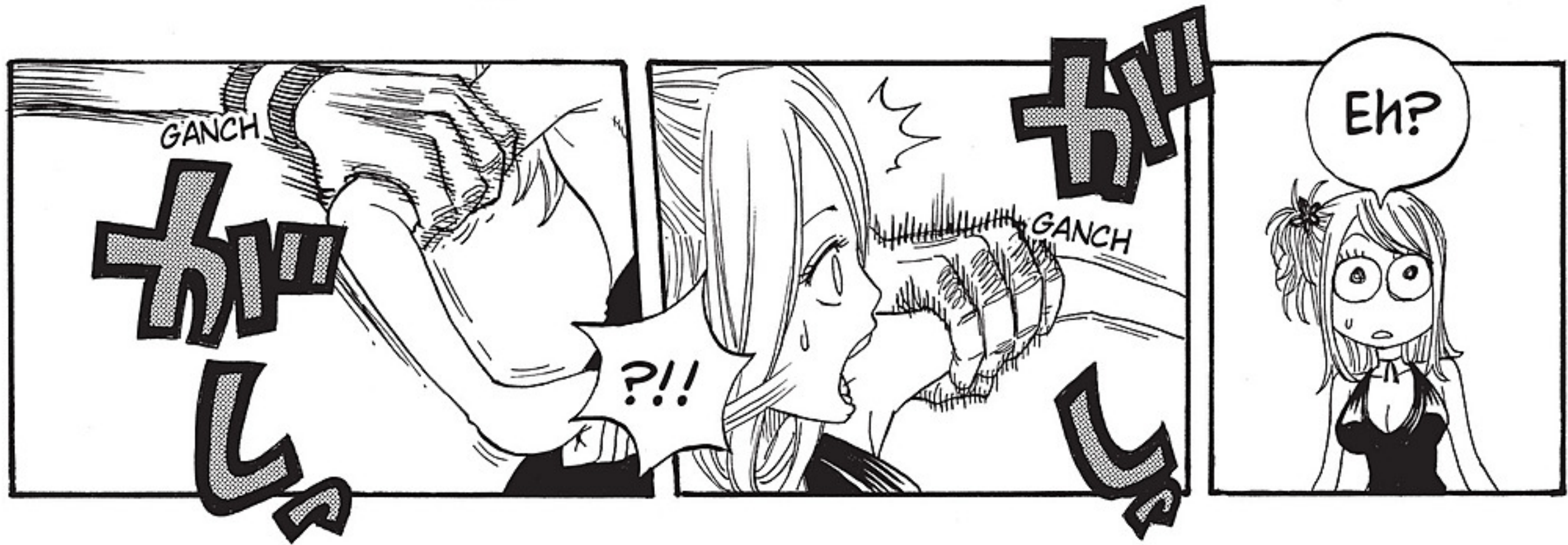
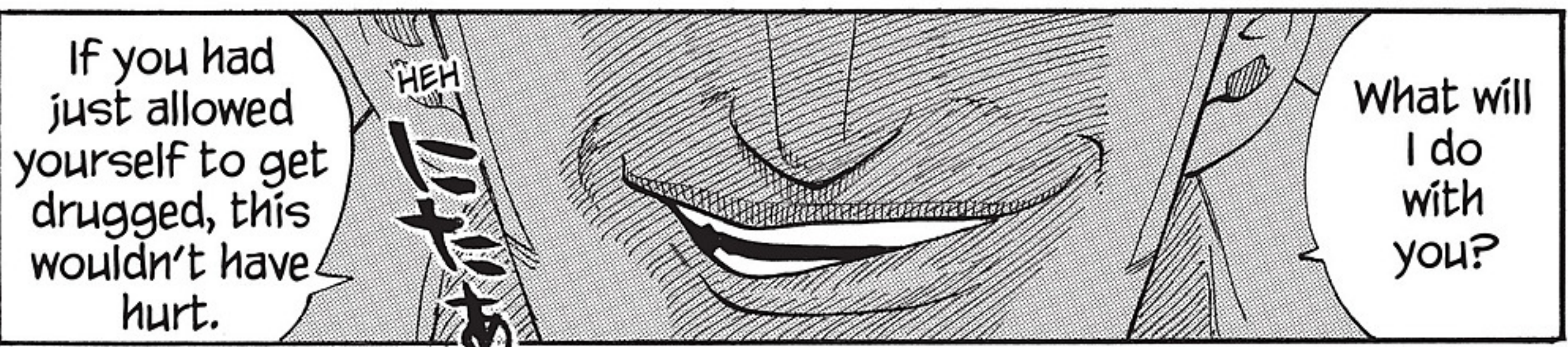












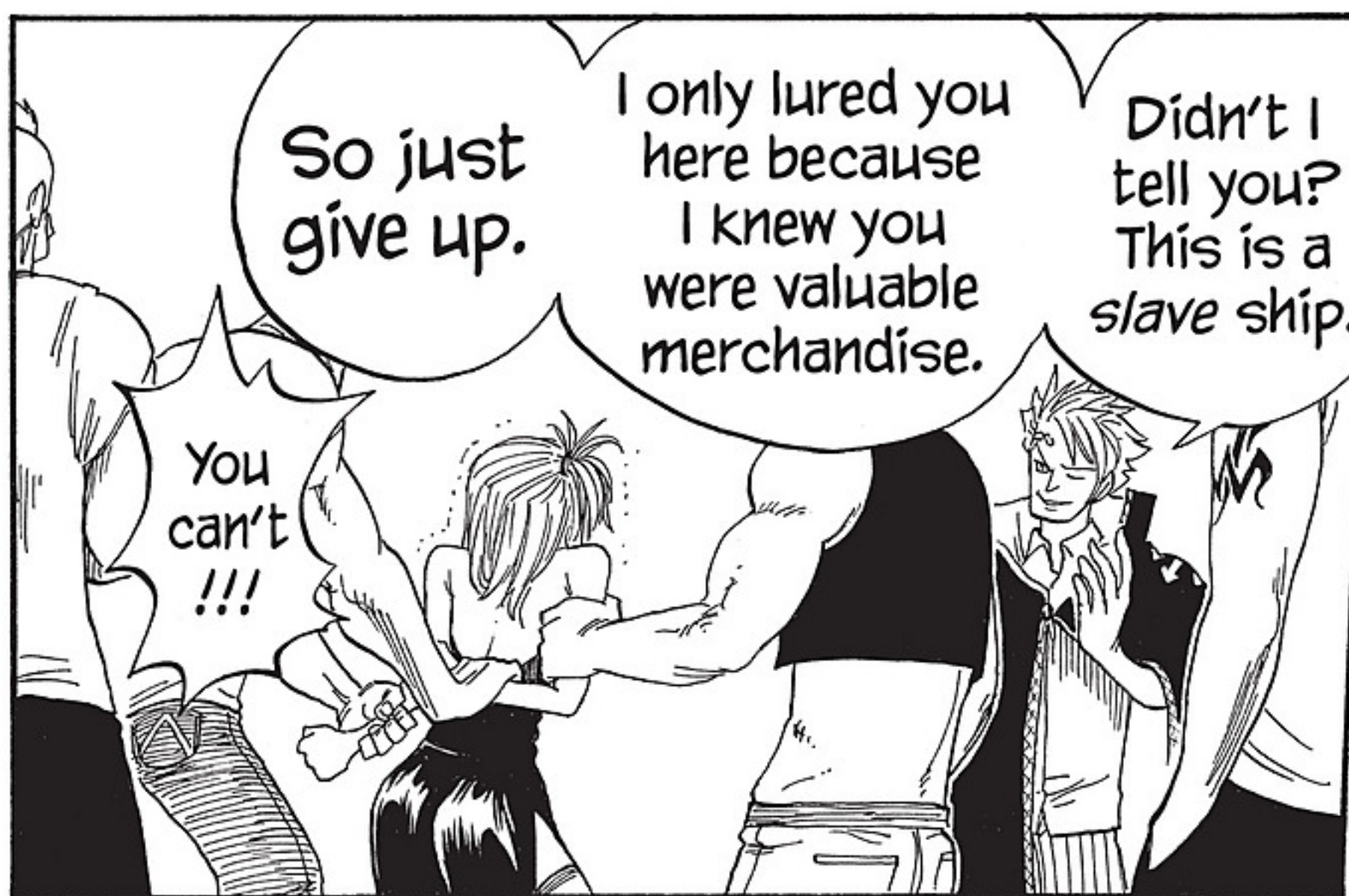


You are going to
behave yourself
until we arrive in
the country of
Bosco...

Welcome
aboard my
slave ship!!

...young
lady!

Eh?!!



So just
give up.

I only lured you
here because
I knew you
were valuable
merchandise.

Didn't I
tell you?
This is a
slave ship.

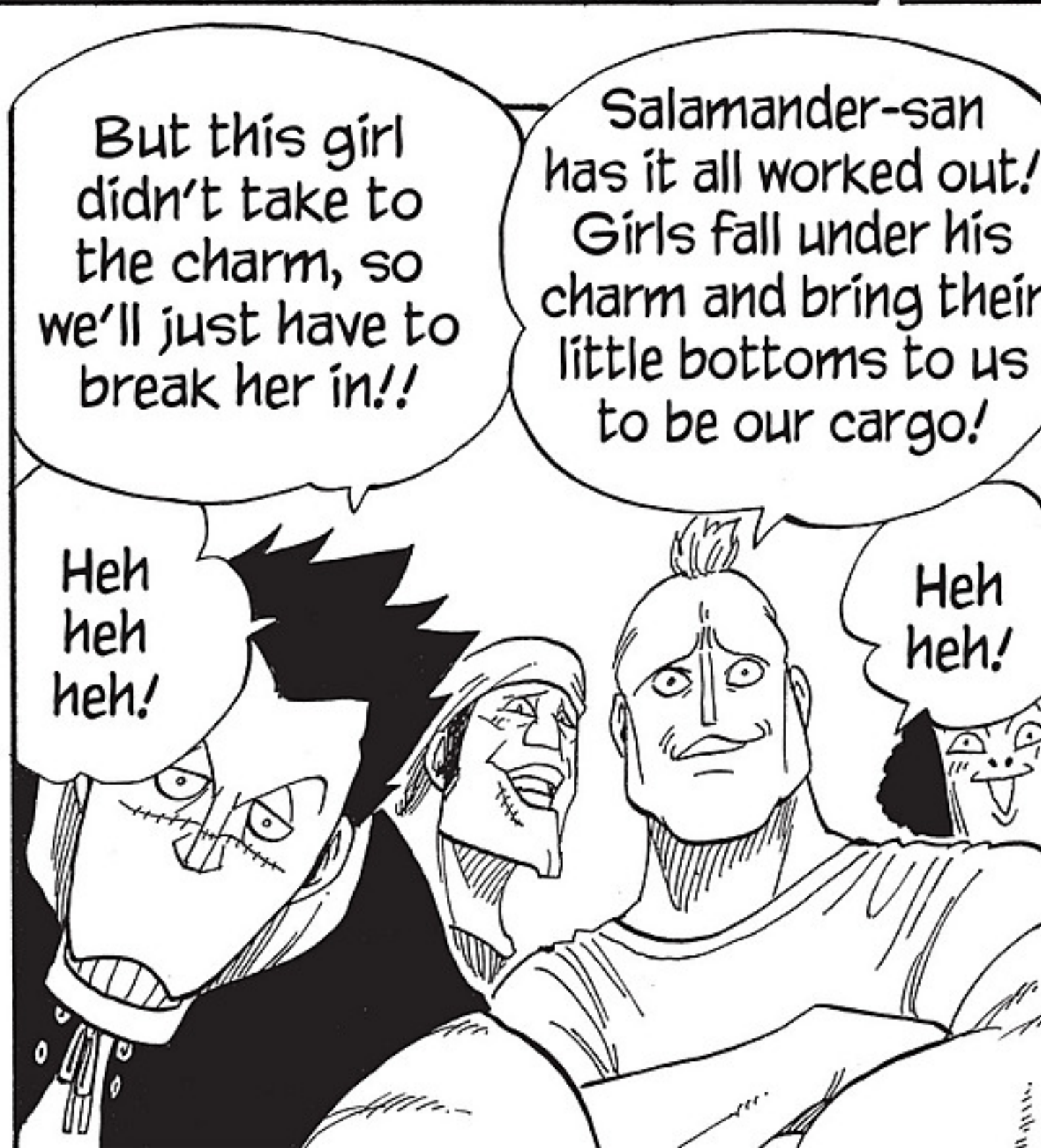
You
can't
!!!



Bosco?!
Wait!! What
about Fairy
Tail?!!



N-No!!
This can't be
happening!!



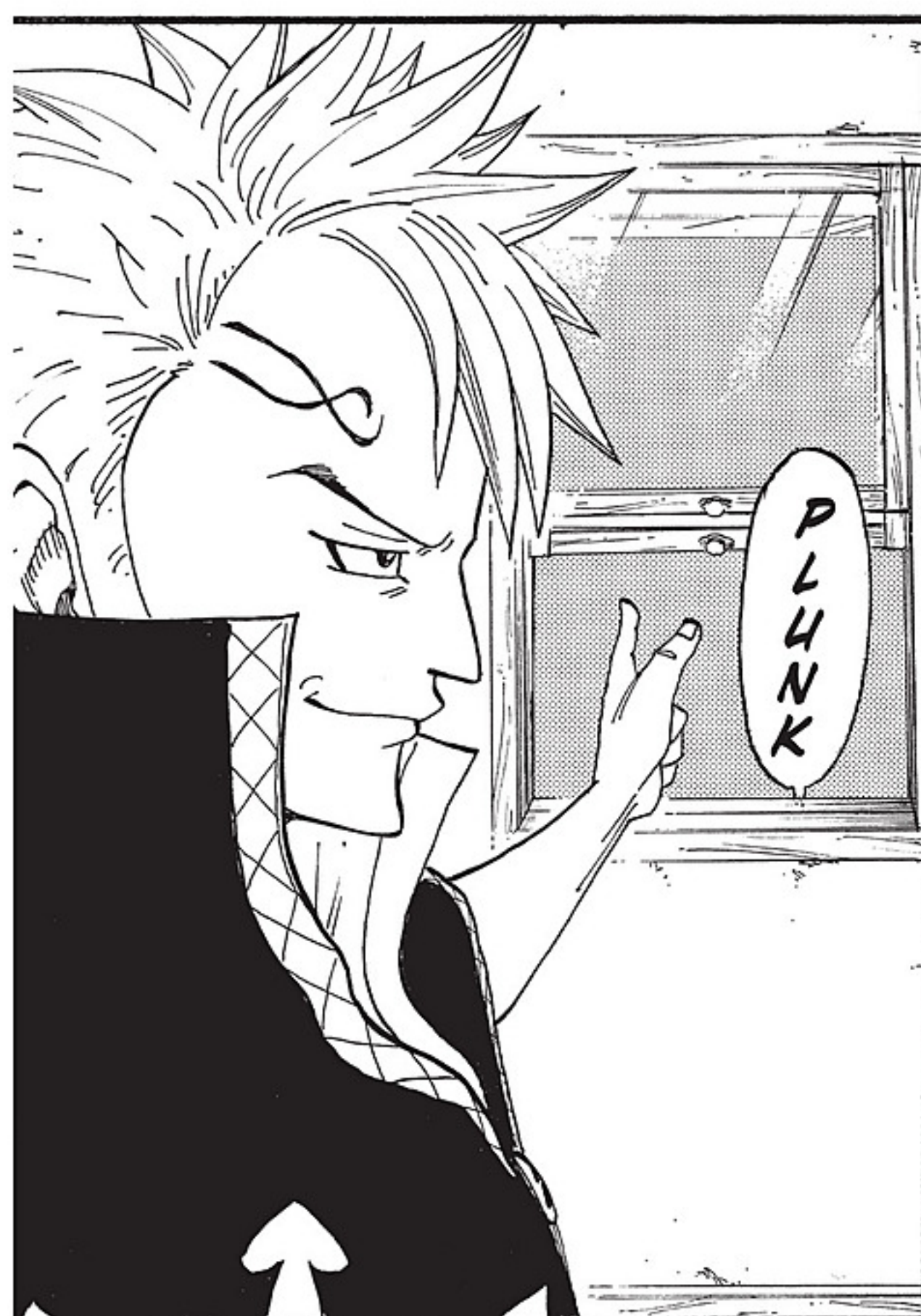
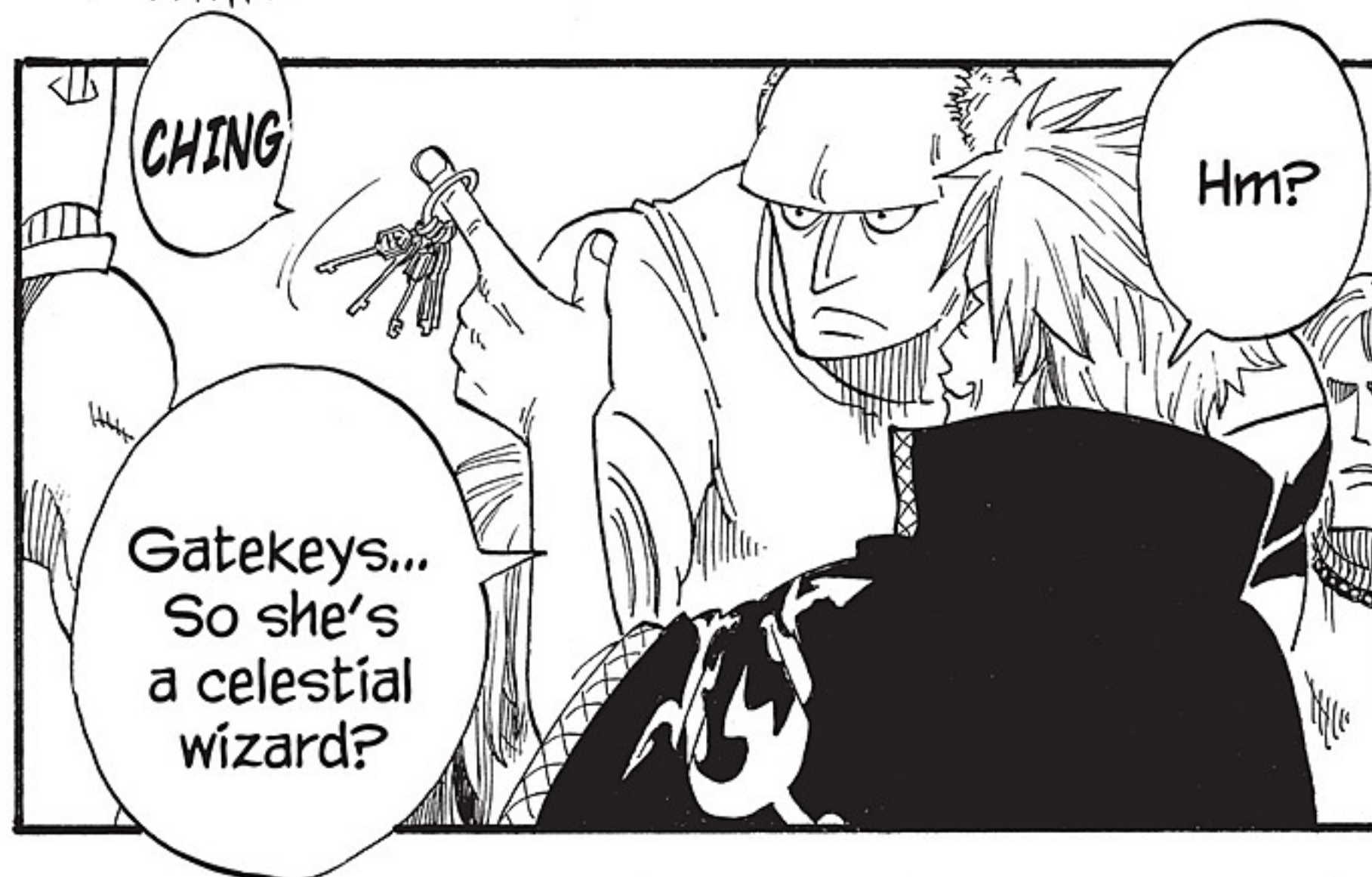
But this girl
didn't take to
the charm, so
we'll just have to
break her in!!

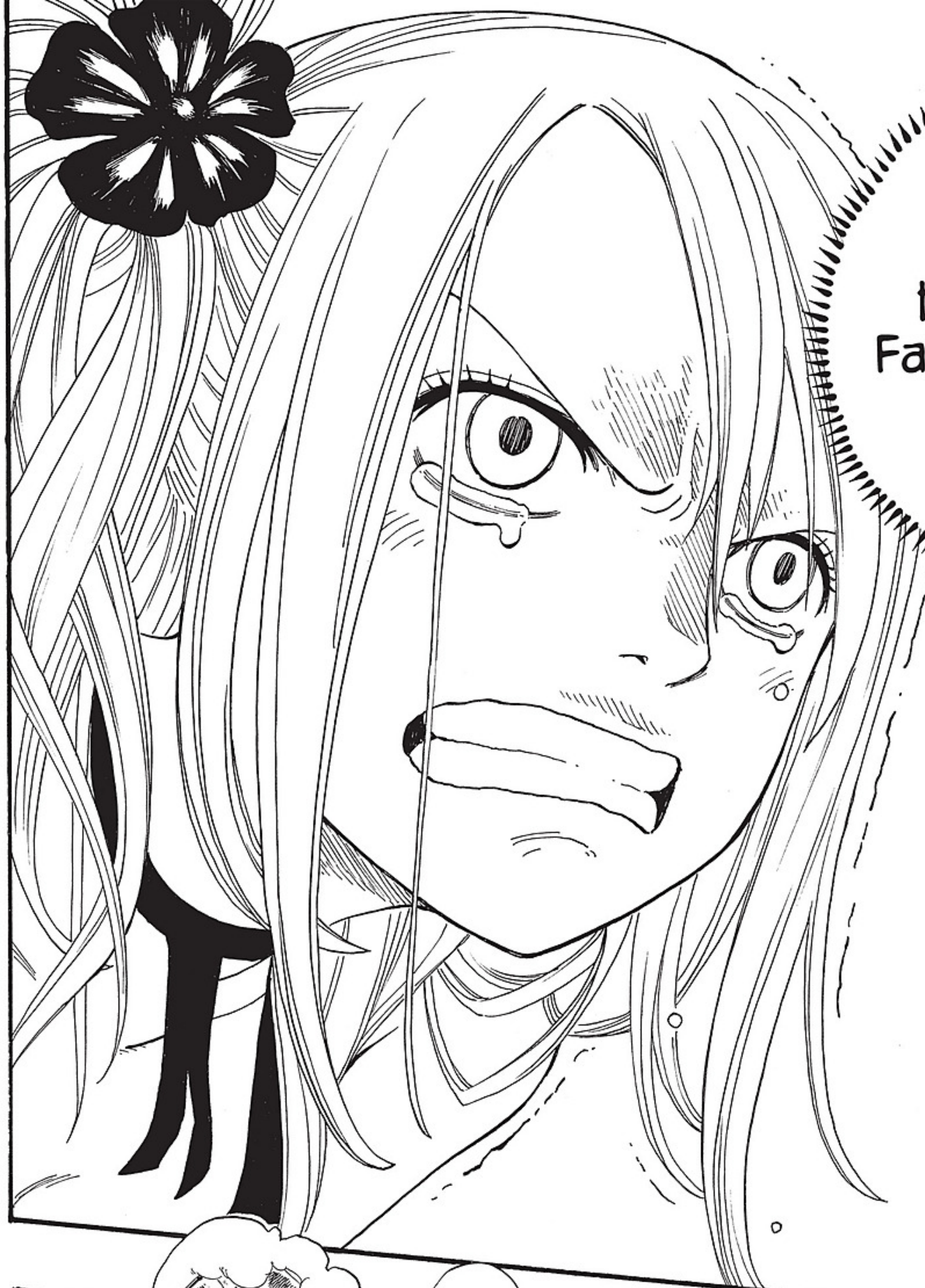
Salamander-san
has it all worked out!
Girls fall under his
charm and bring their
little bottoms to us
to be our cargo!

Heh
heh
heh!

Heh
heh!





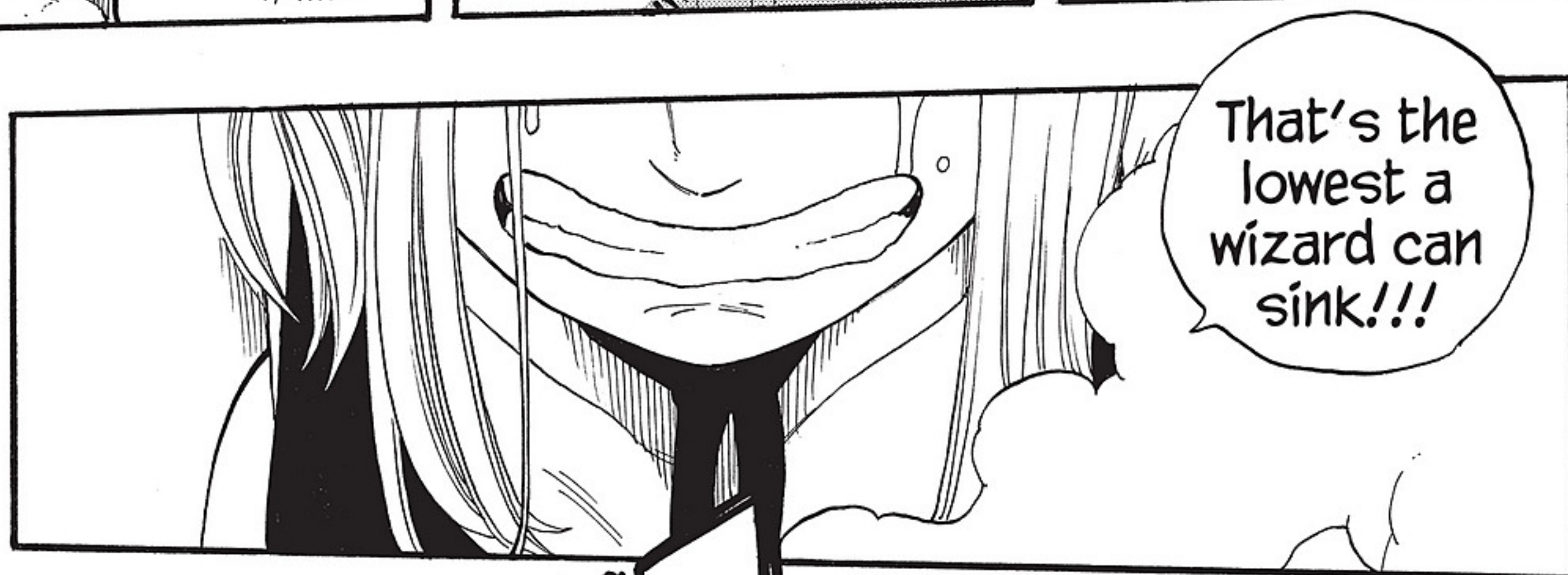
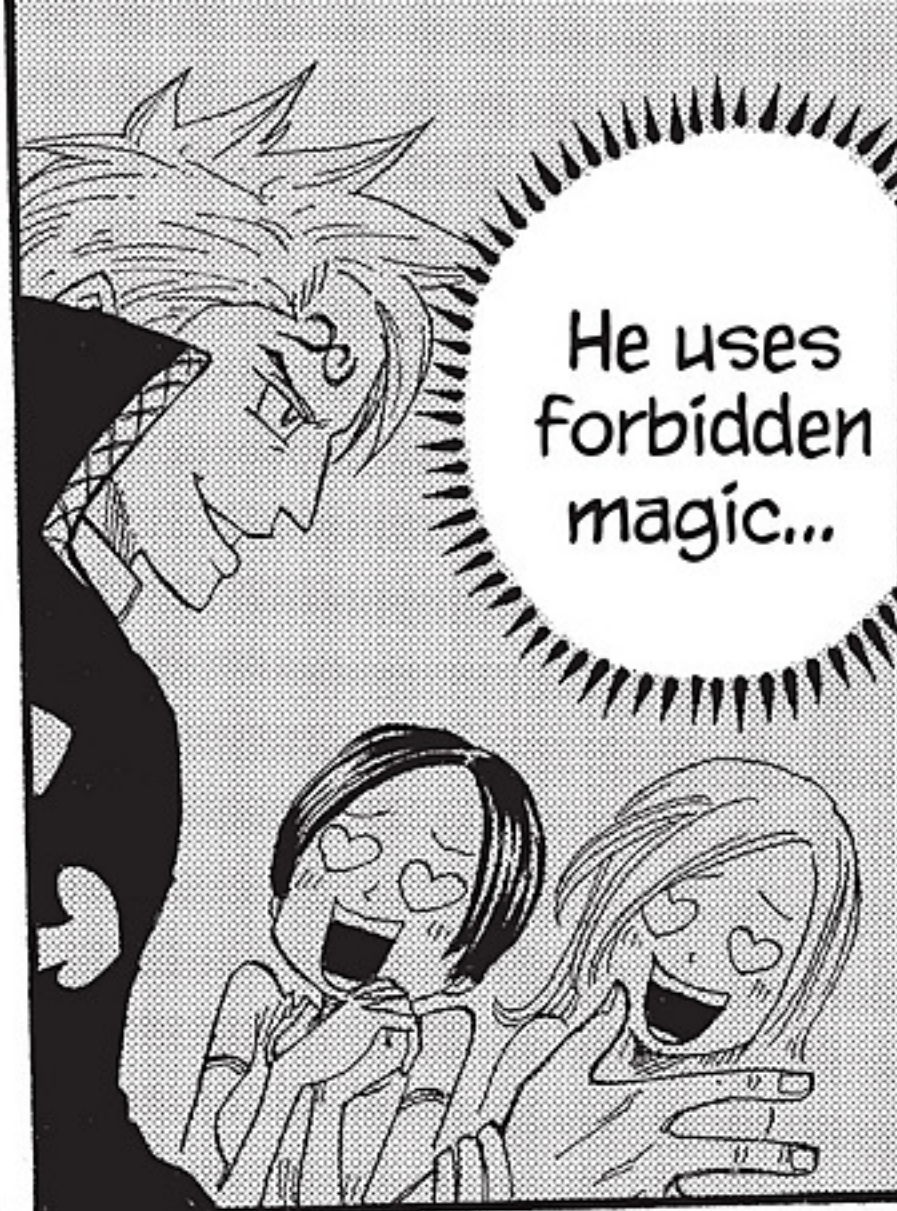
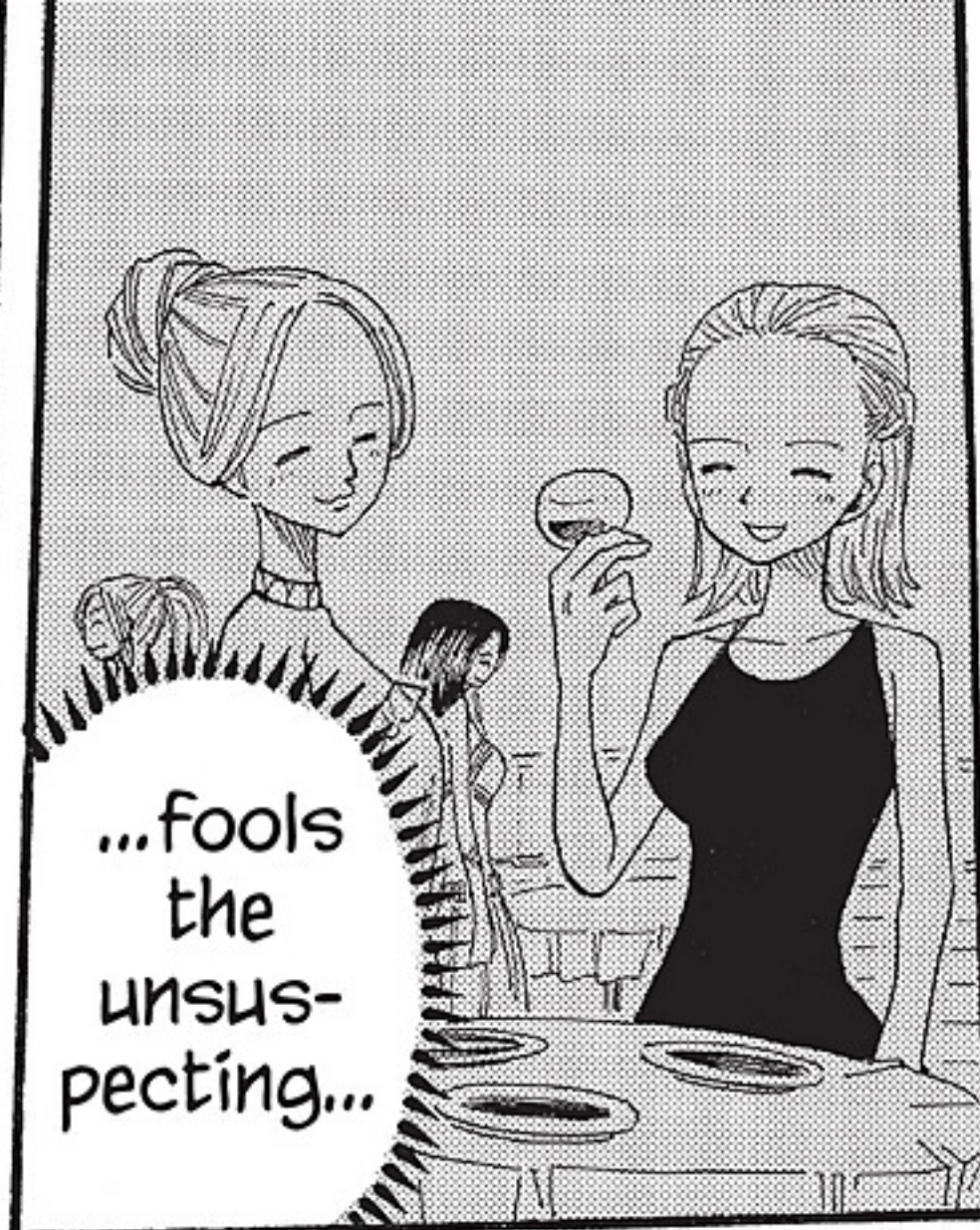


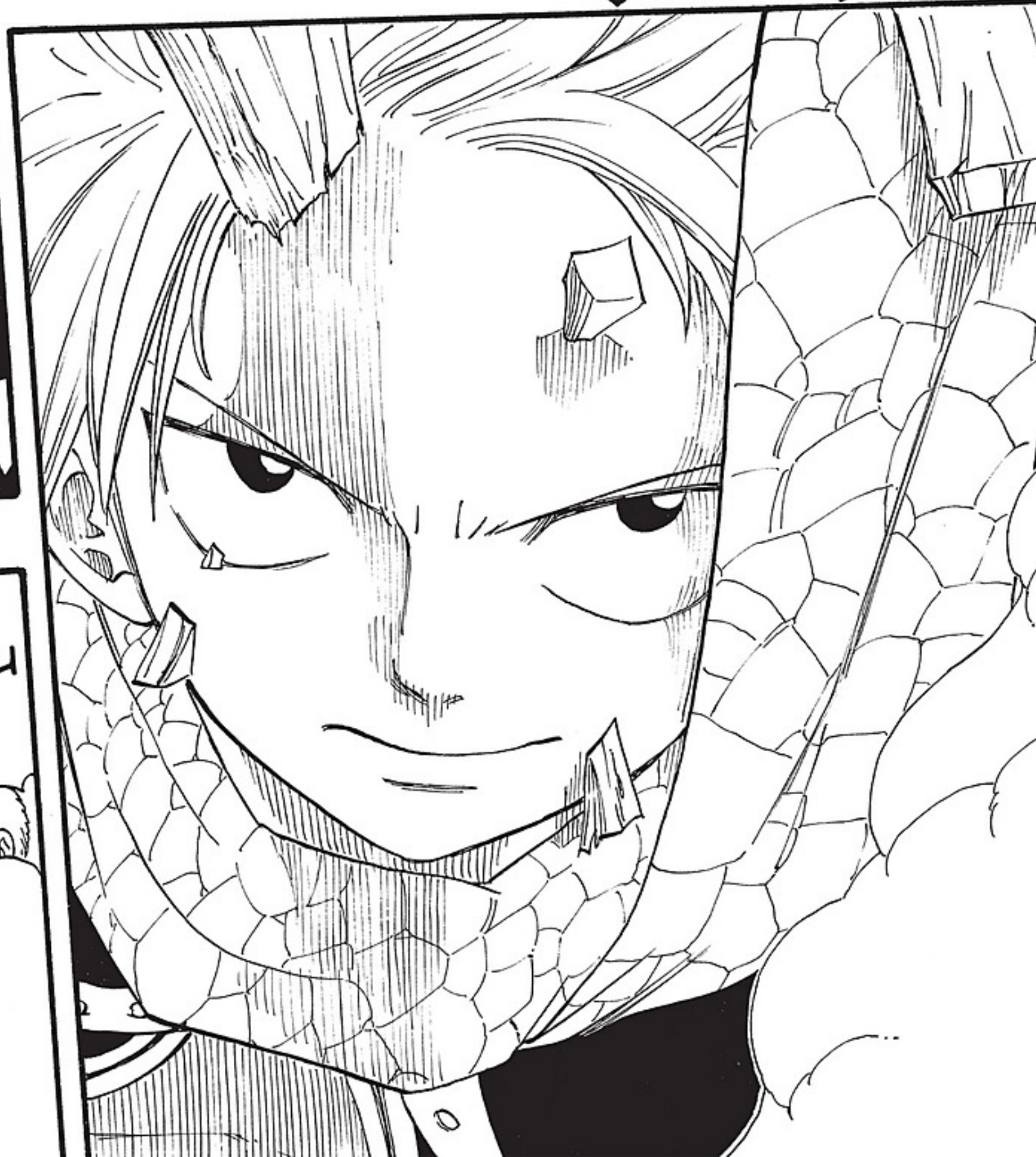
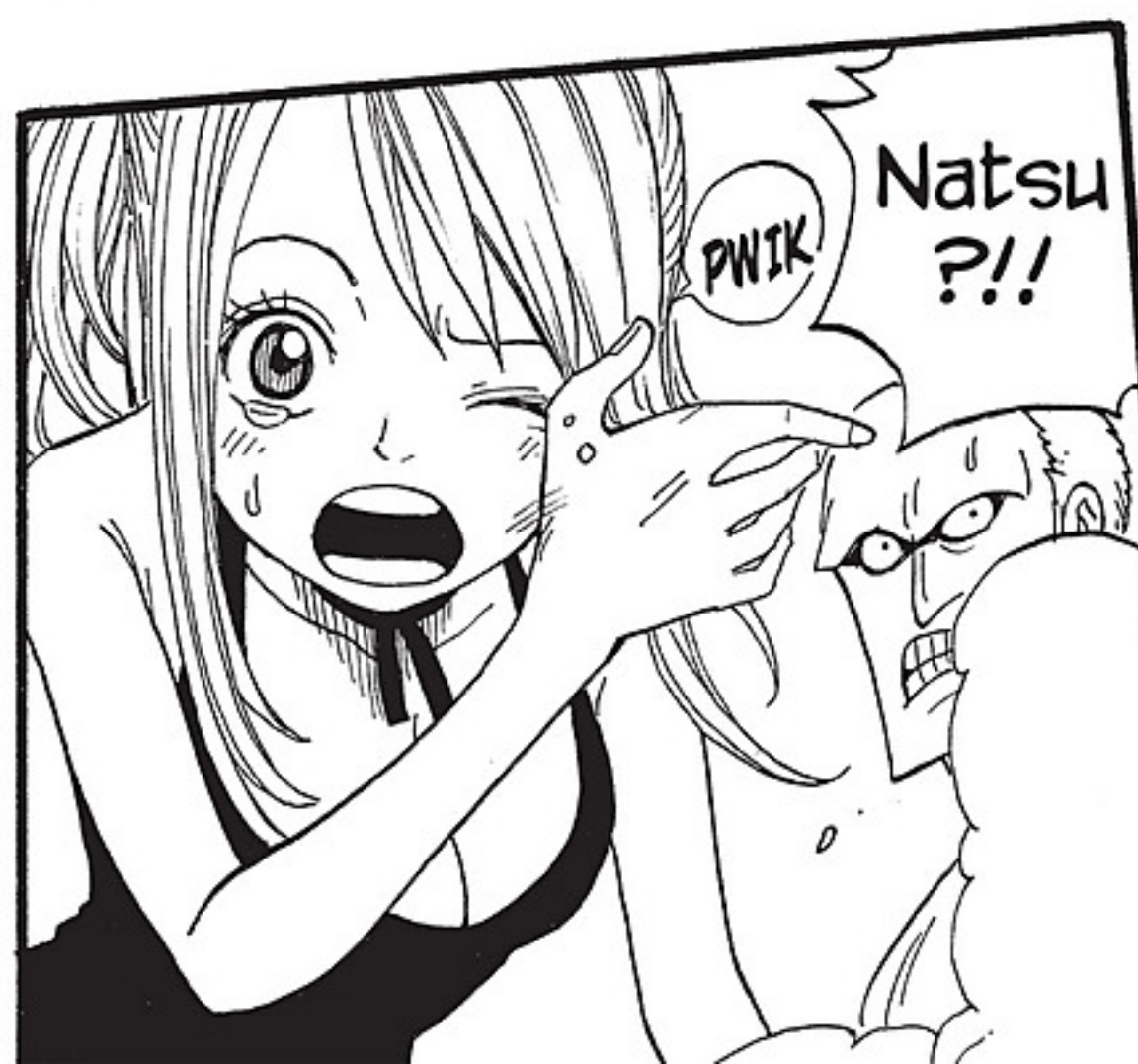
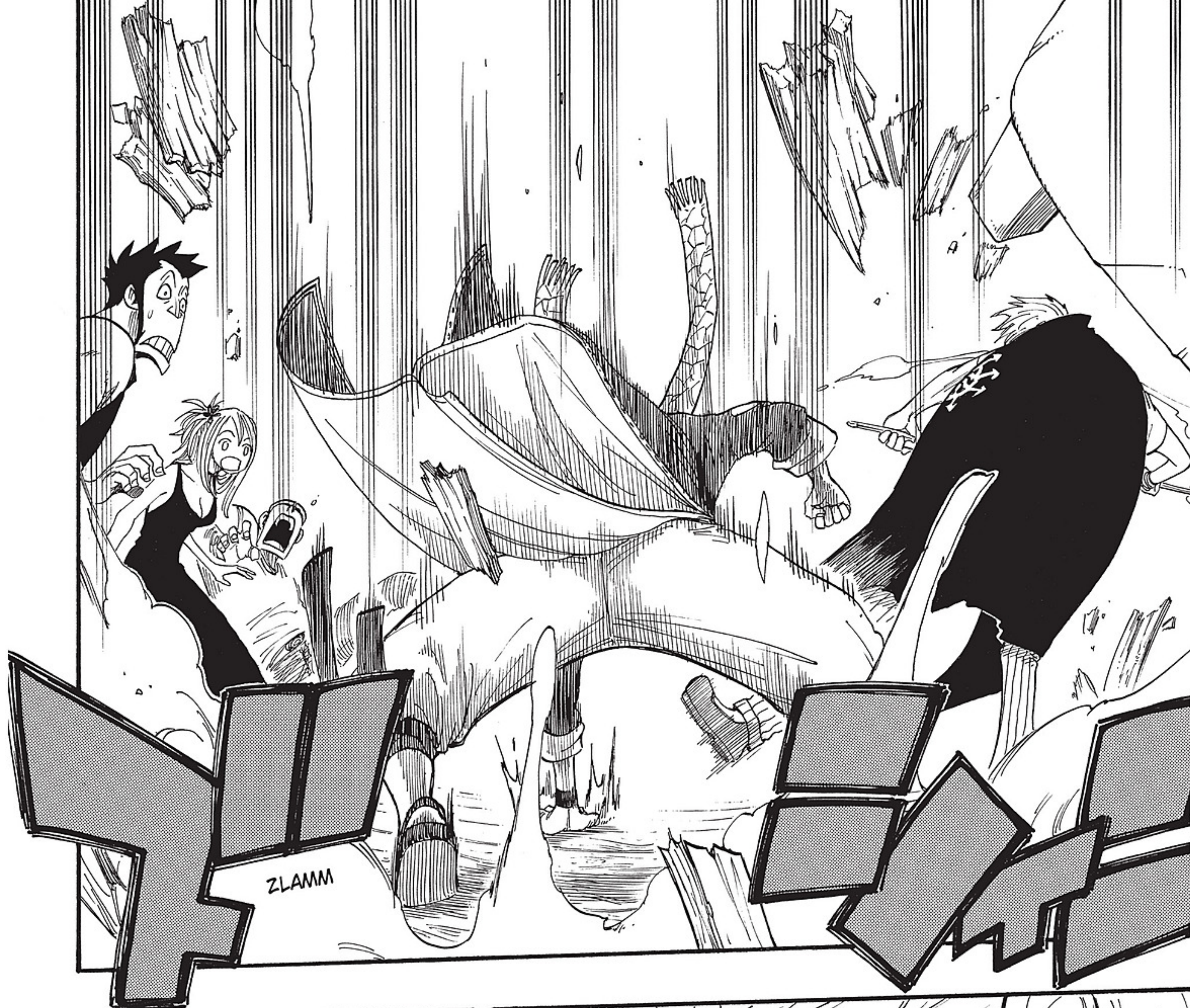
Are these
the things a
Fairy Tail wizard
does?

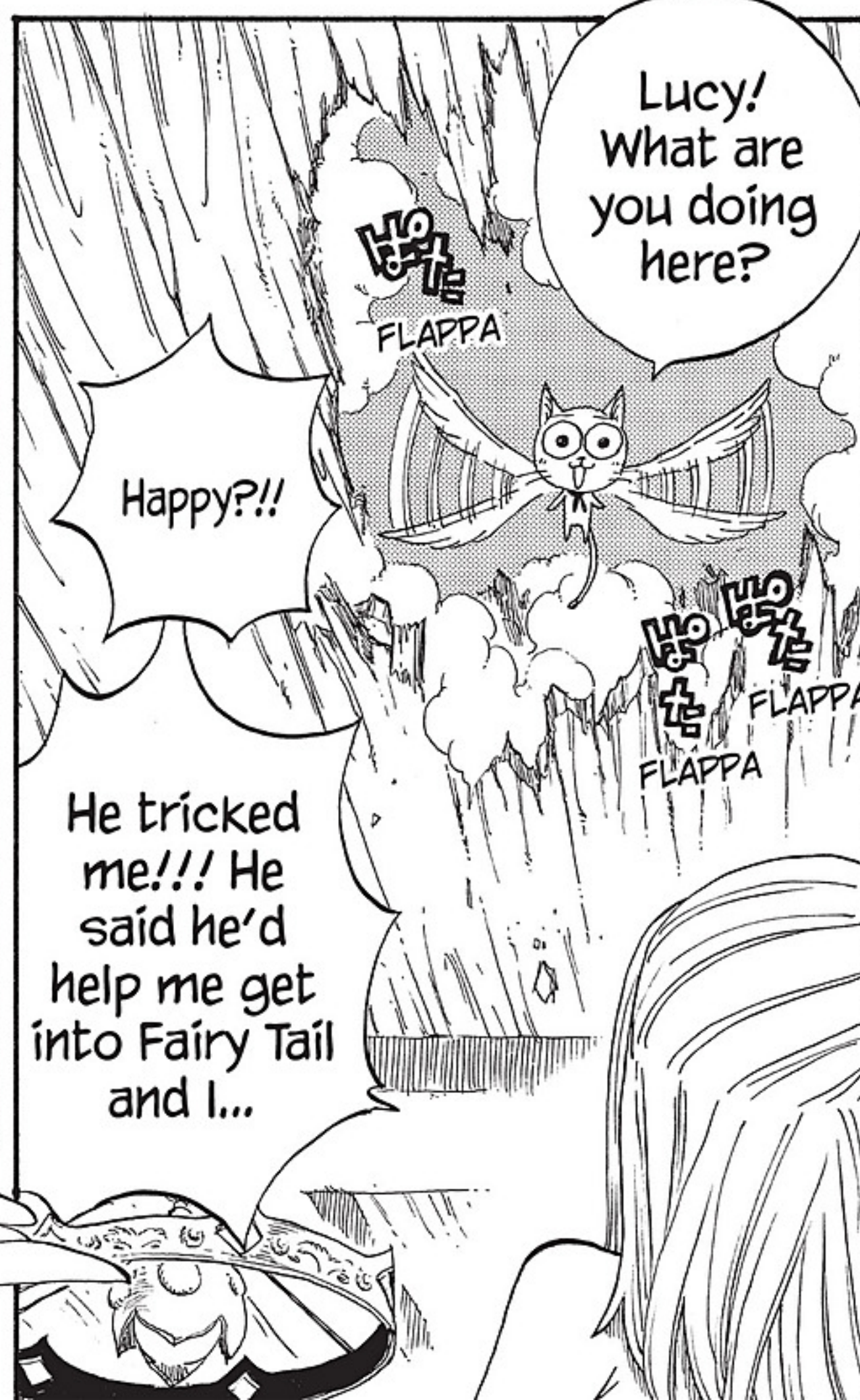


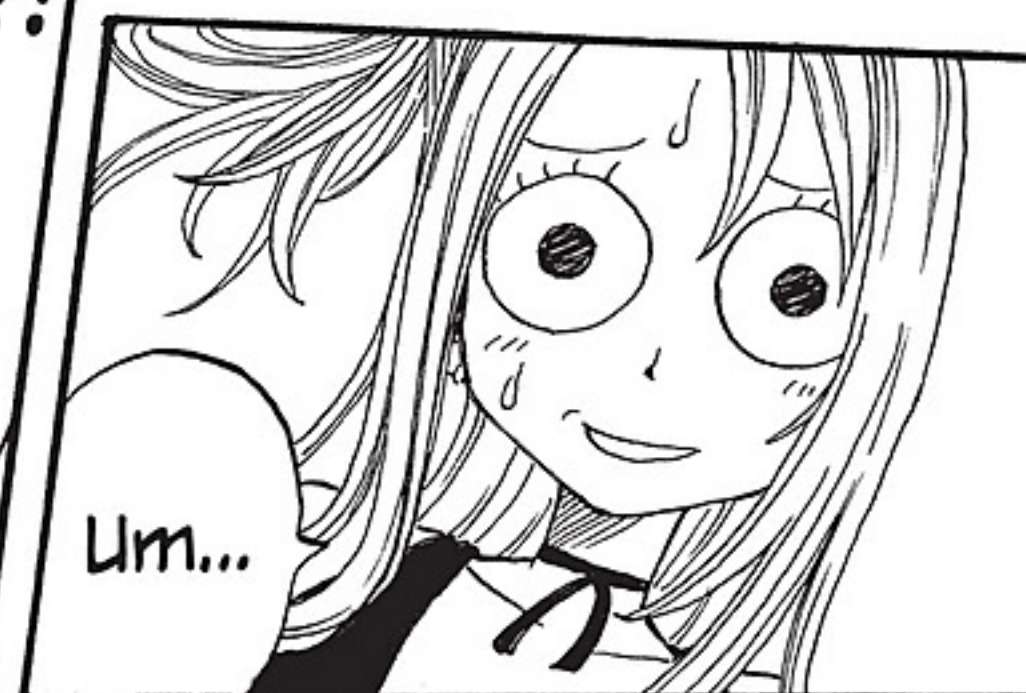
It might
sting a bit,
but grit
your teeth
and bear
it.

The first
thing we do
with slaves is
brand them!



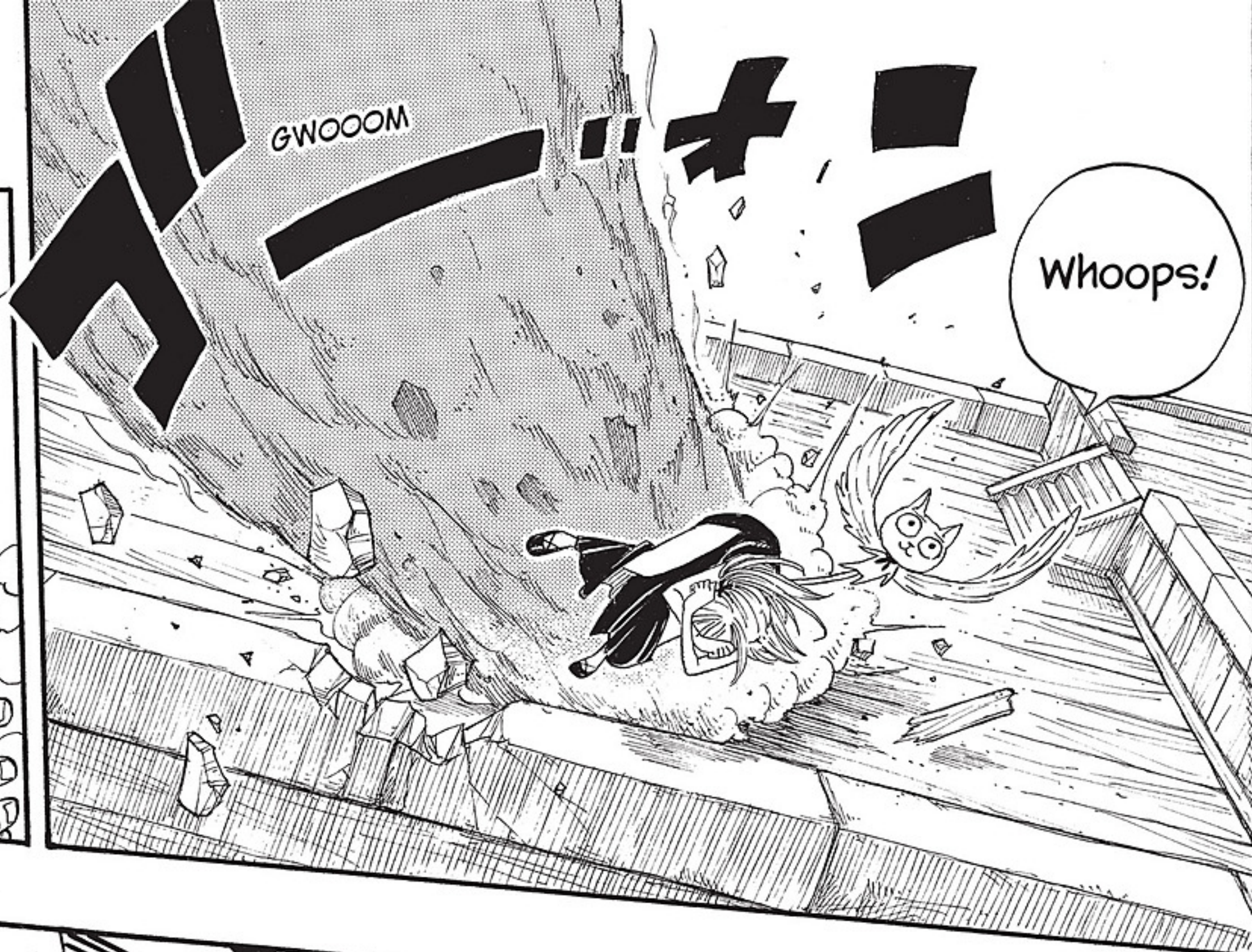








Tsk!



Whoops!



Yes, sir!!!

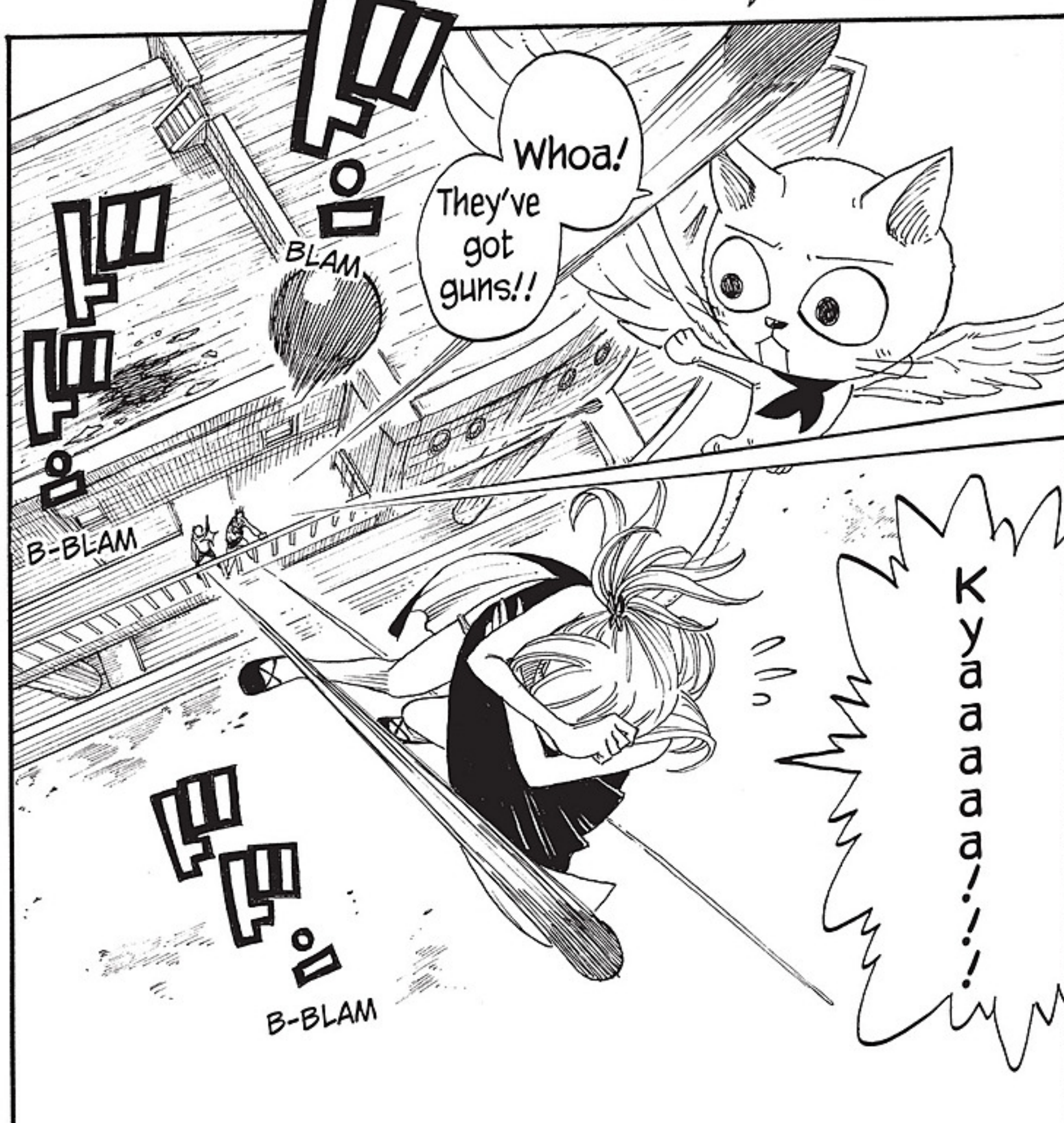
Don't let that girl get away!!!

If the Council gets wind of this, it'll mean no end of trouble!!!



Lucy, I've got something to say!!

What?! This isn't the best time, you know!!

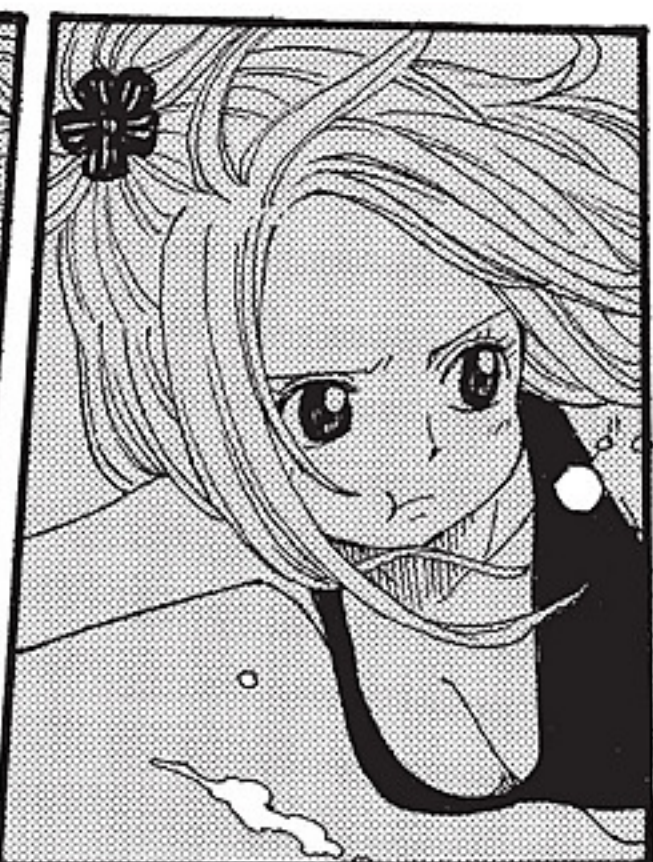
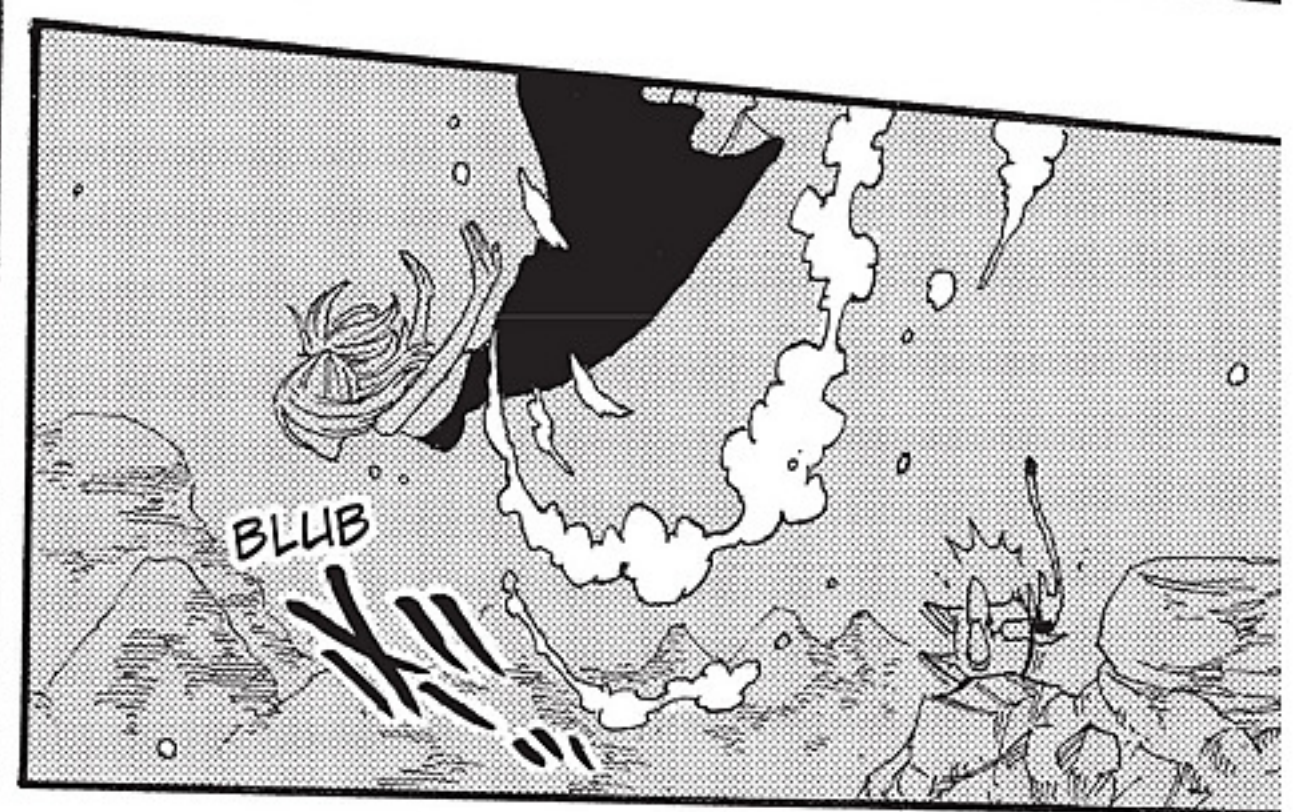
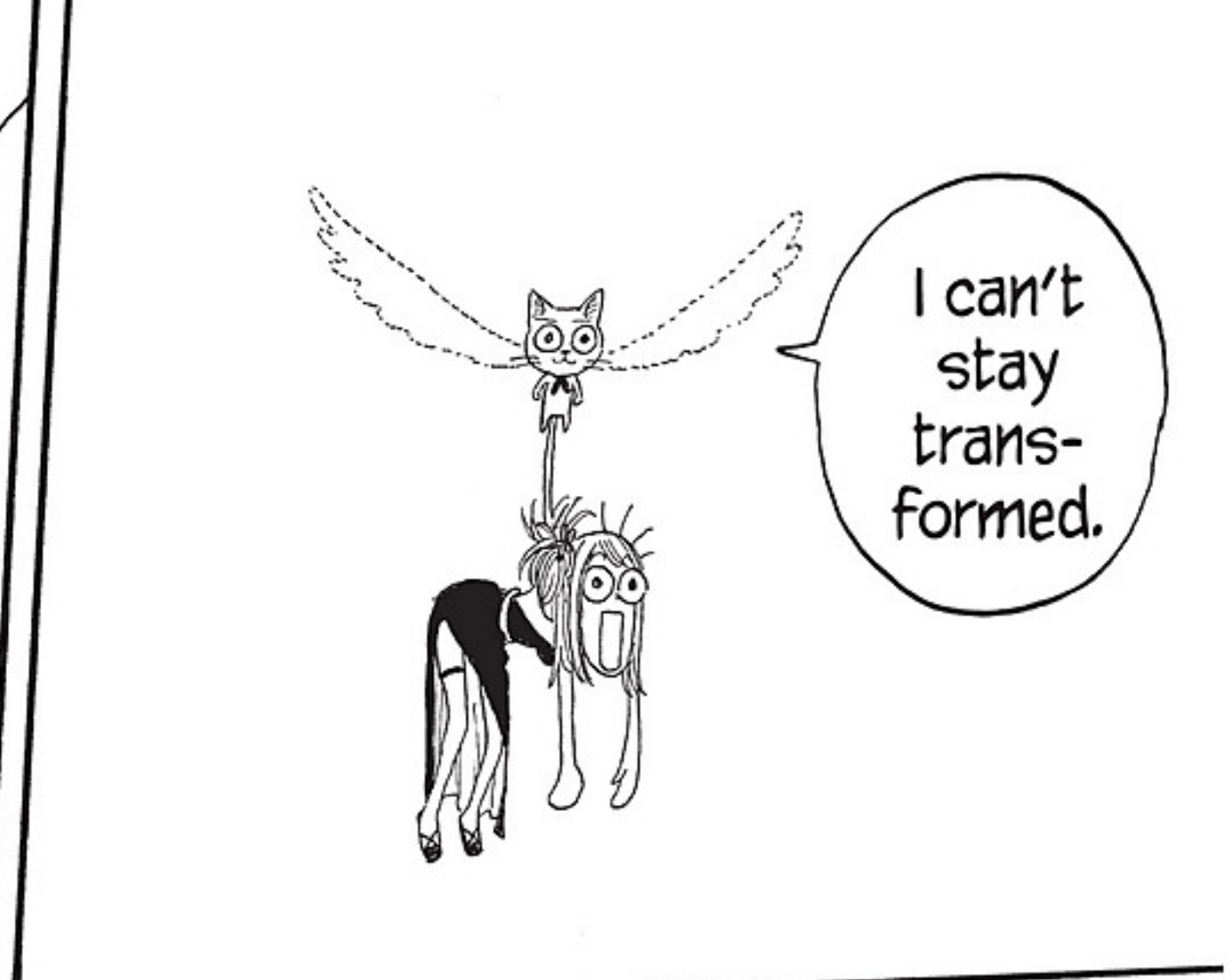


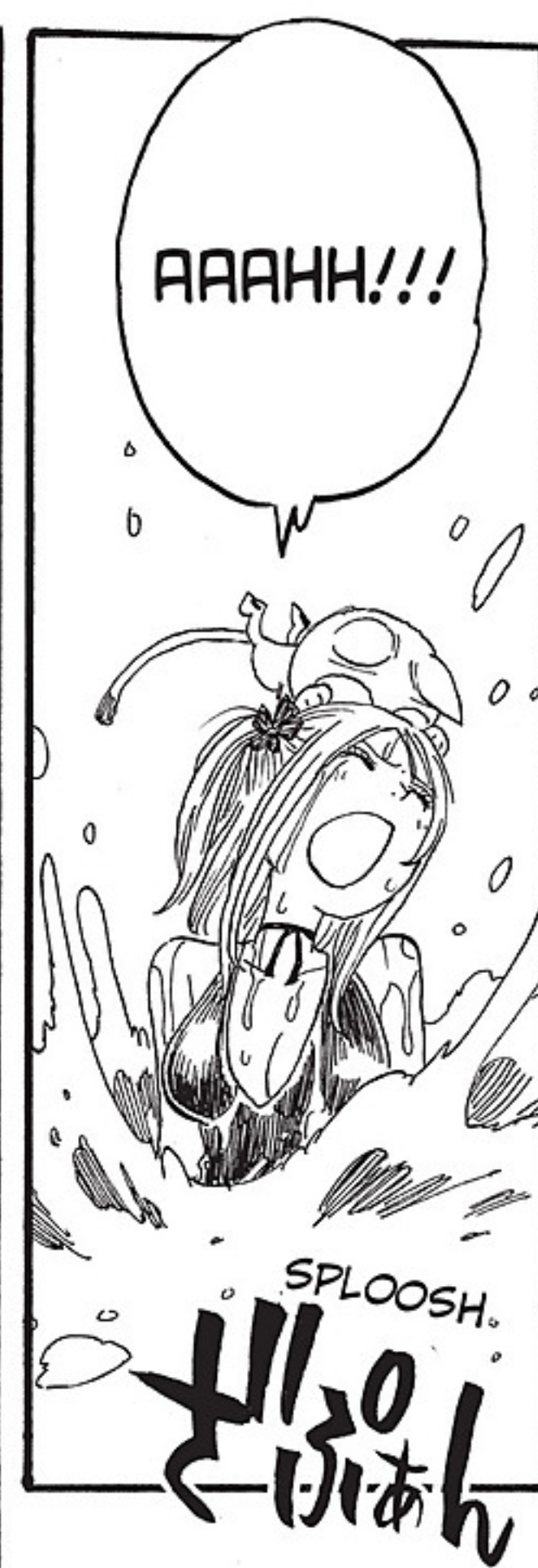
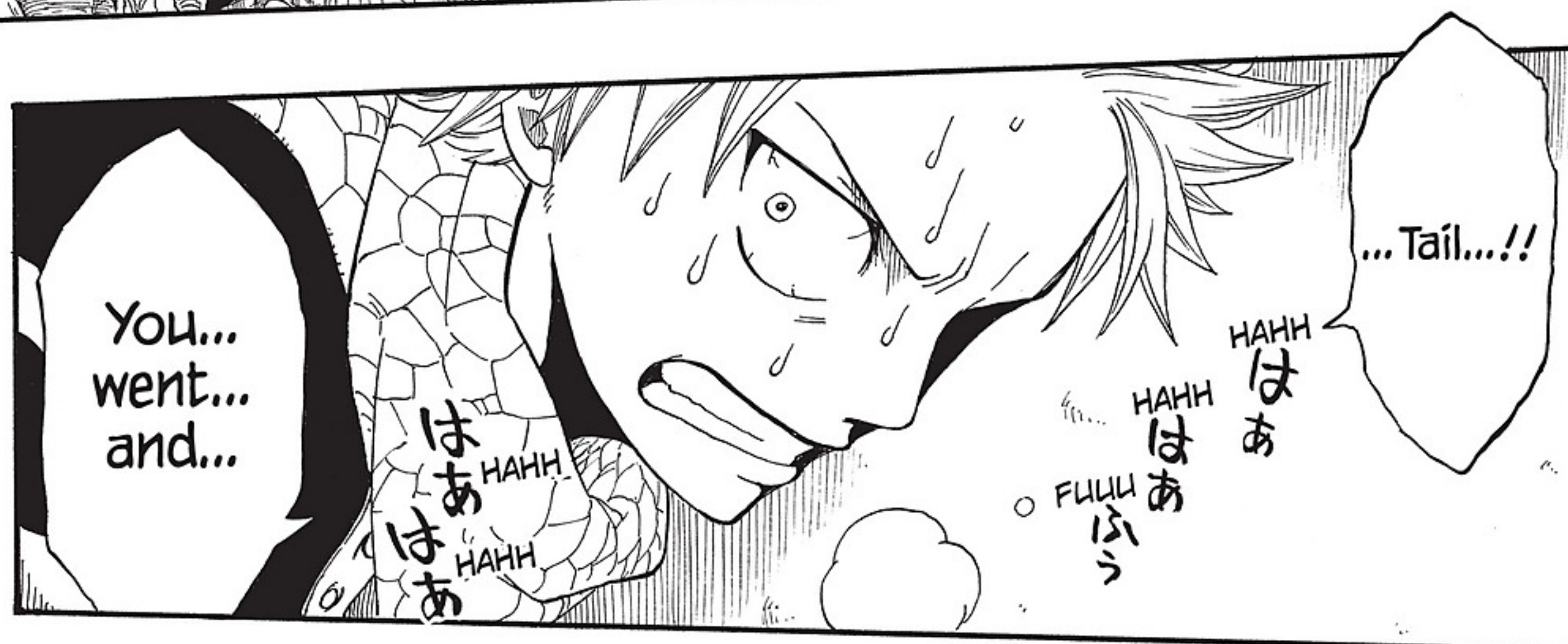
Whoa! They've got guns!!

BLAM

B-BLAM

B-BLAM





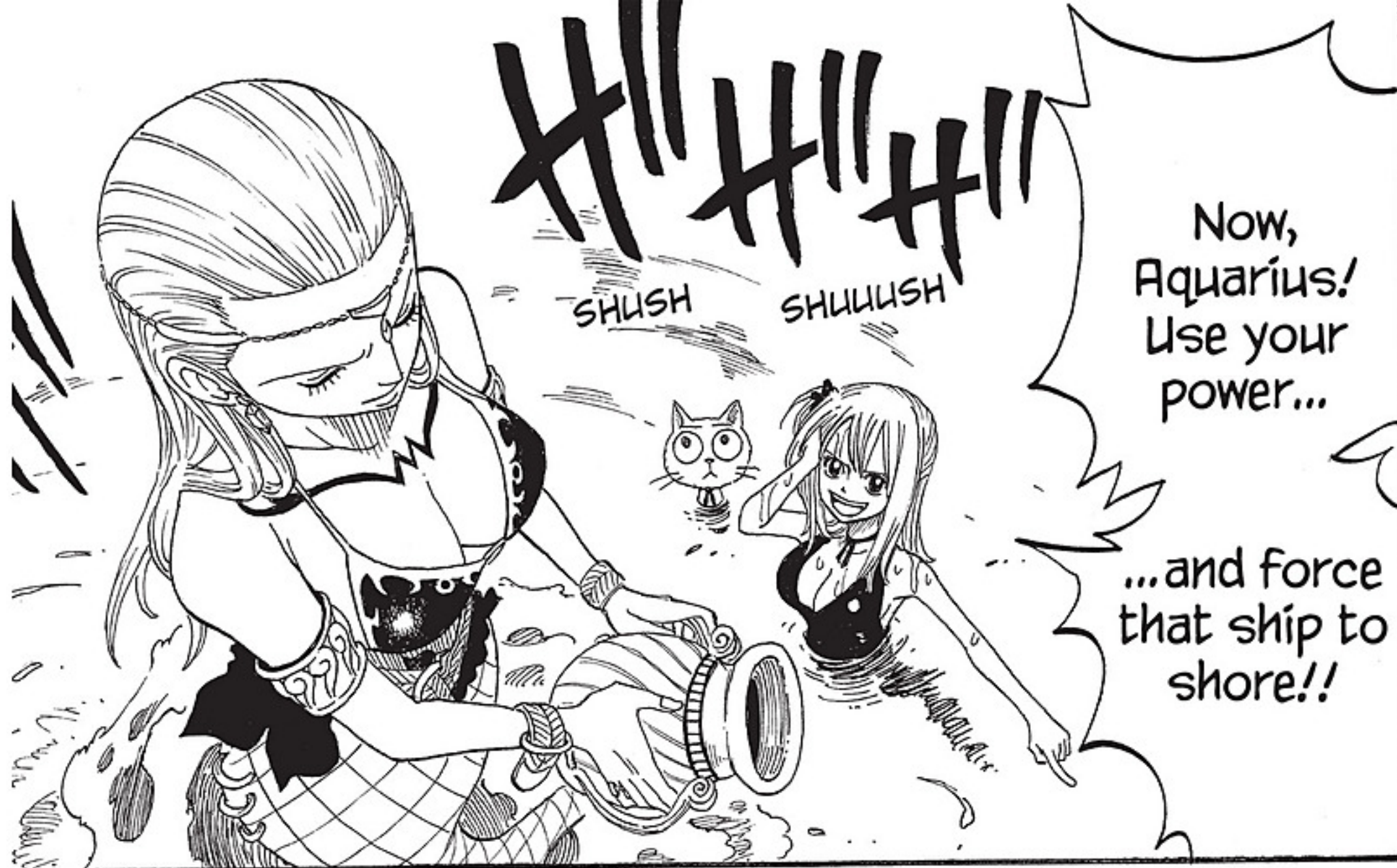
Aquarius!!!

KEEEE

I
command
the Gate of
the Water
Bearer to
open!!!

SPLOOSH

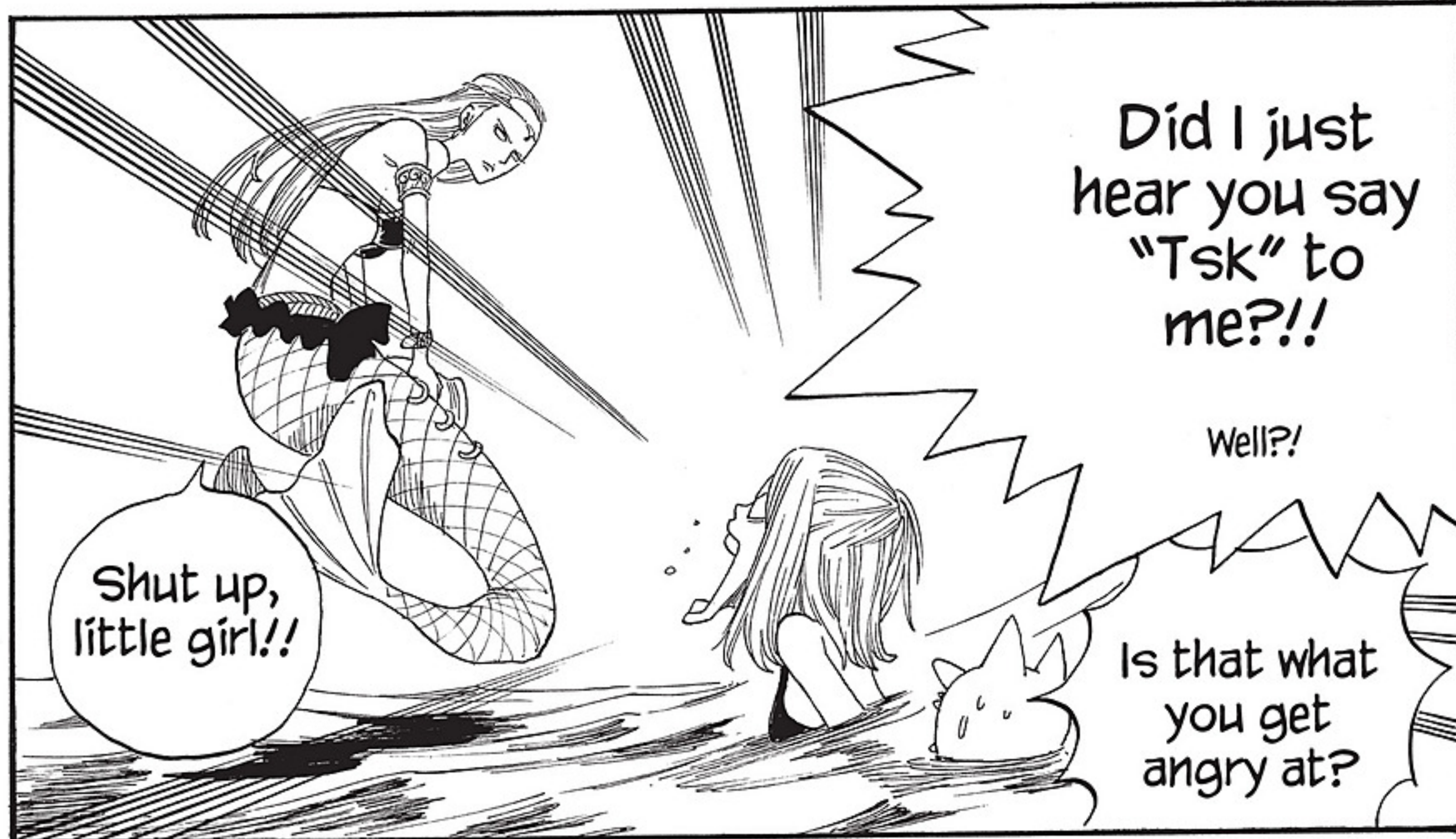
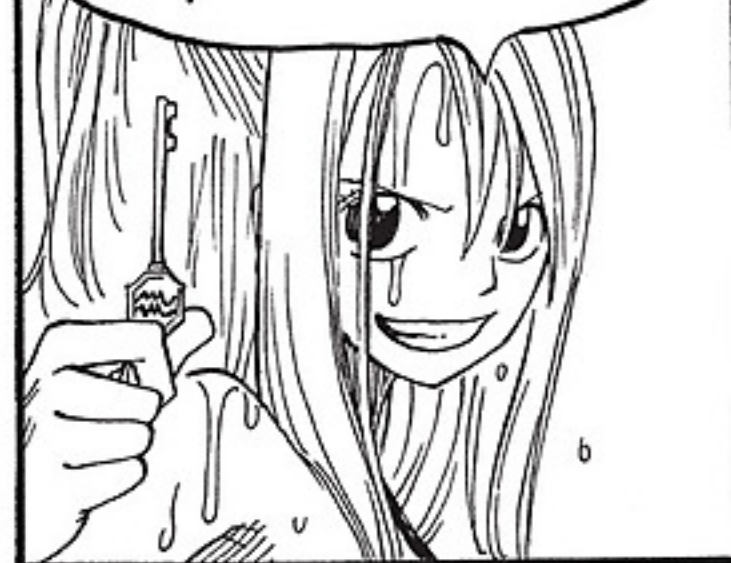
That's
amaz-
ing!!!



Now,
Aquarius!
Use your
power...

...and force
that ship to
shore!!

I'm a celestial
wizard! I use the
keys to the Gates
to the other world,
and call the celestial
spirits forth!!



Shut up,
little girl!!

Did I just
hear you say
"Tsk" to
me?!!

Well?!

Is that what
you get
angry at?

Tsk!

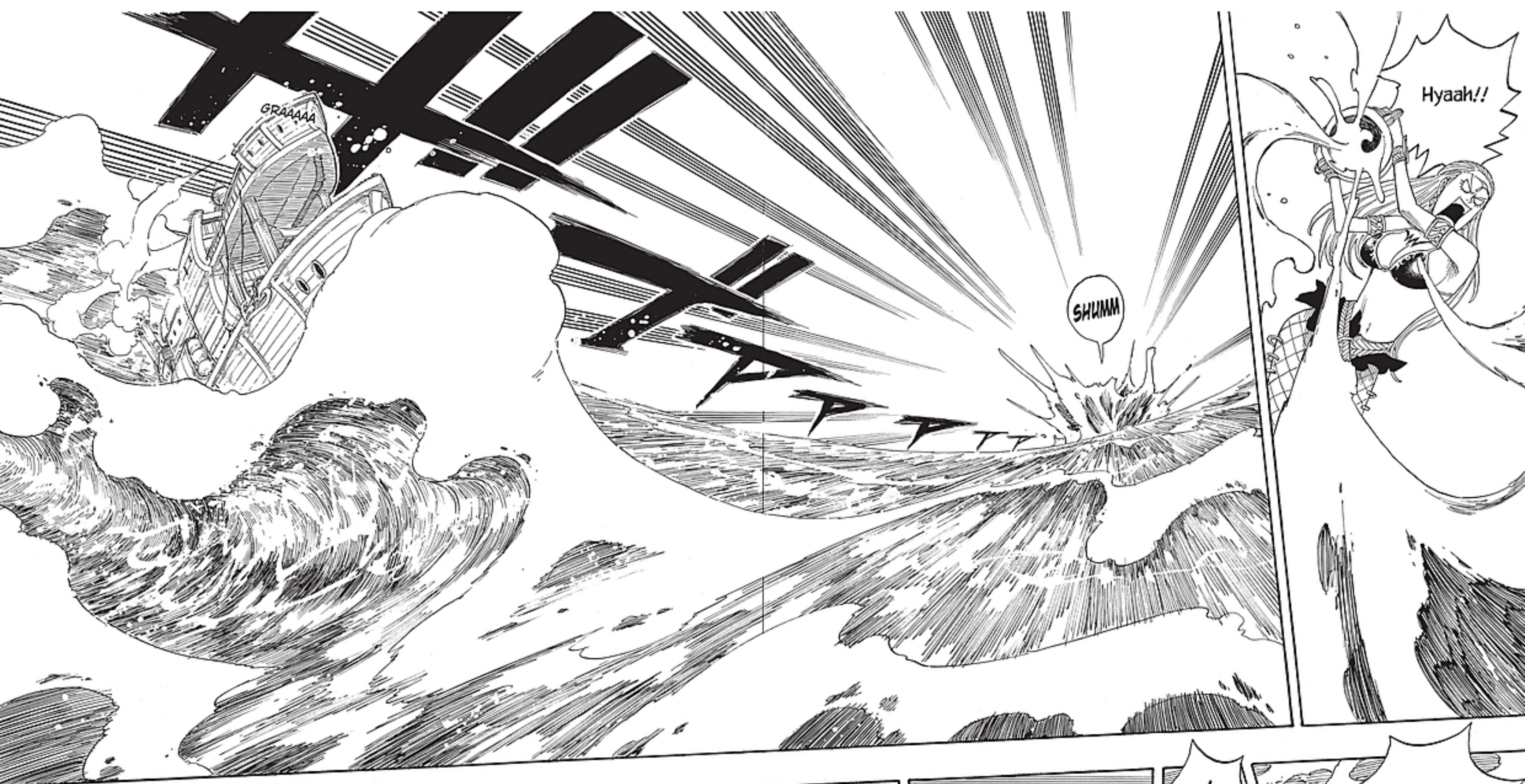


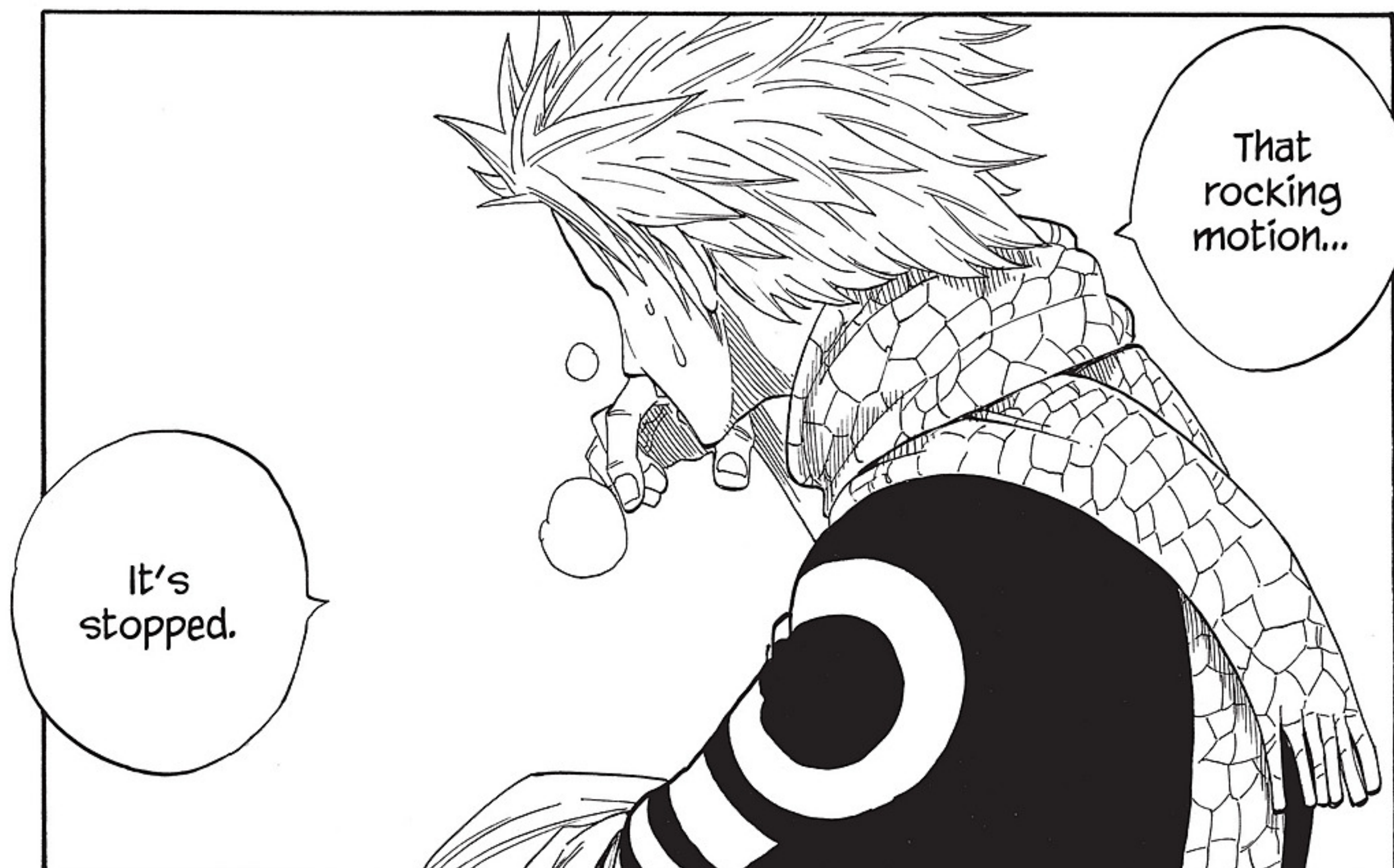
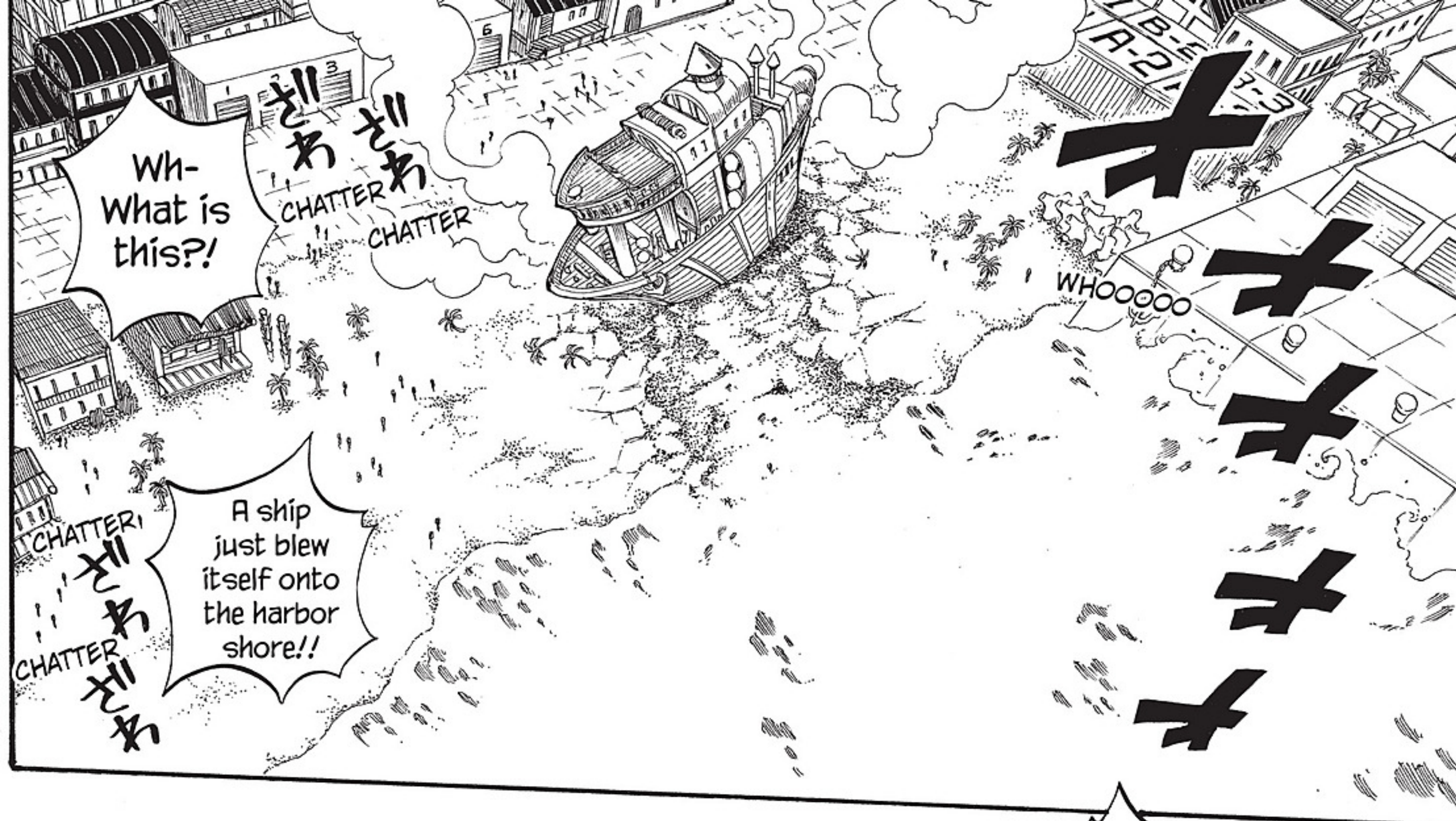
The next
time you
drop my key,
I'll kill you!!

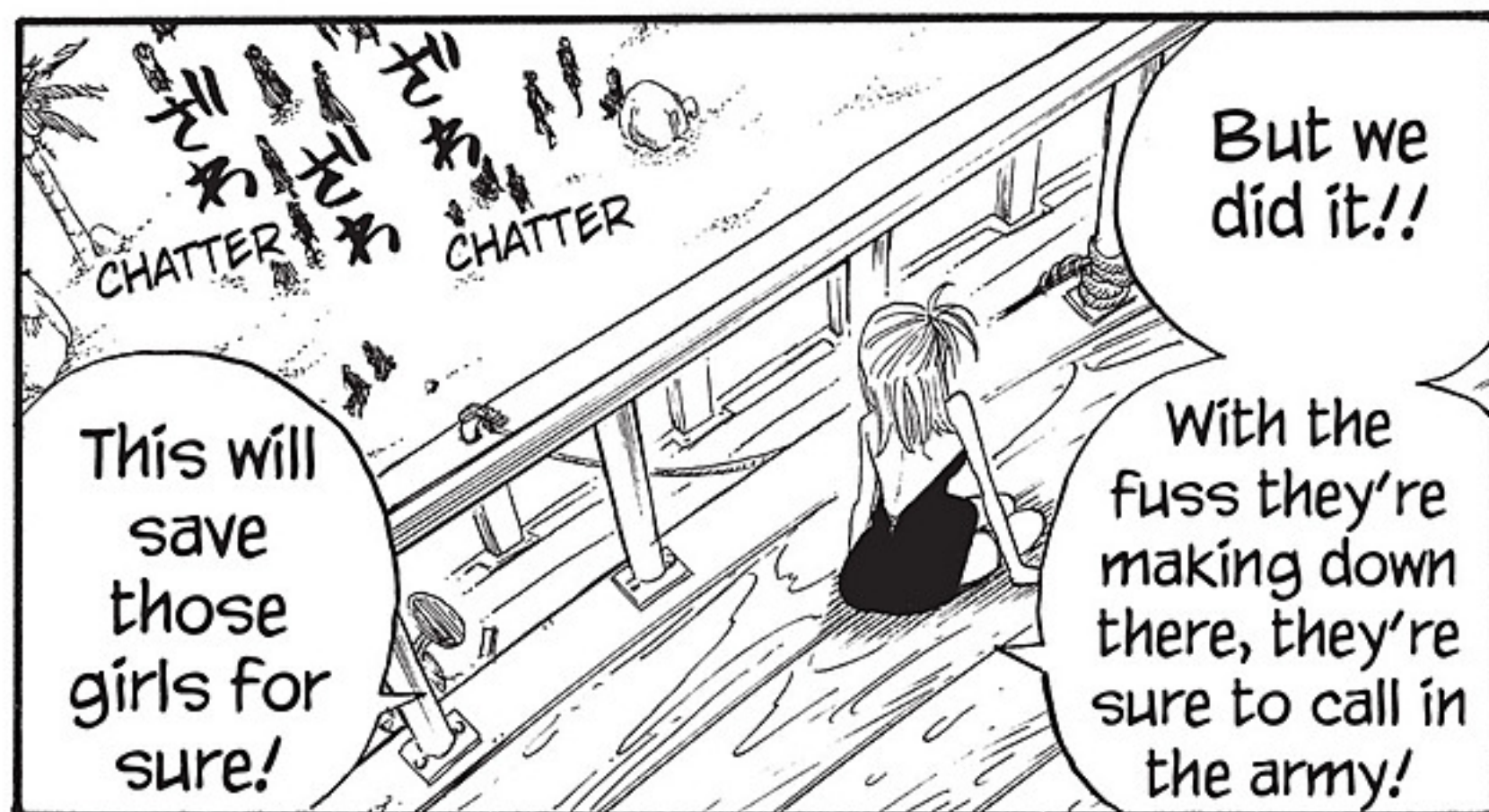
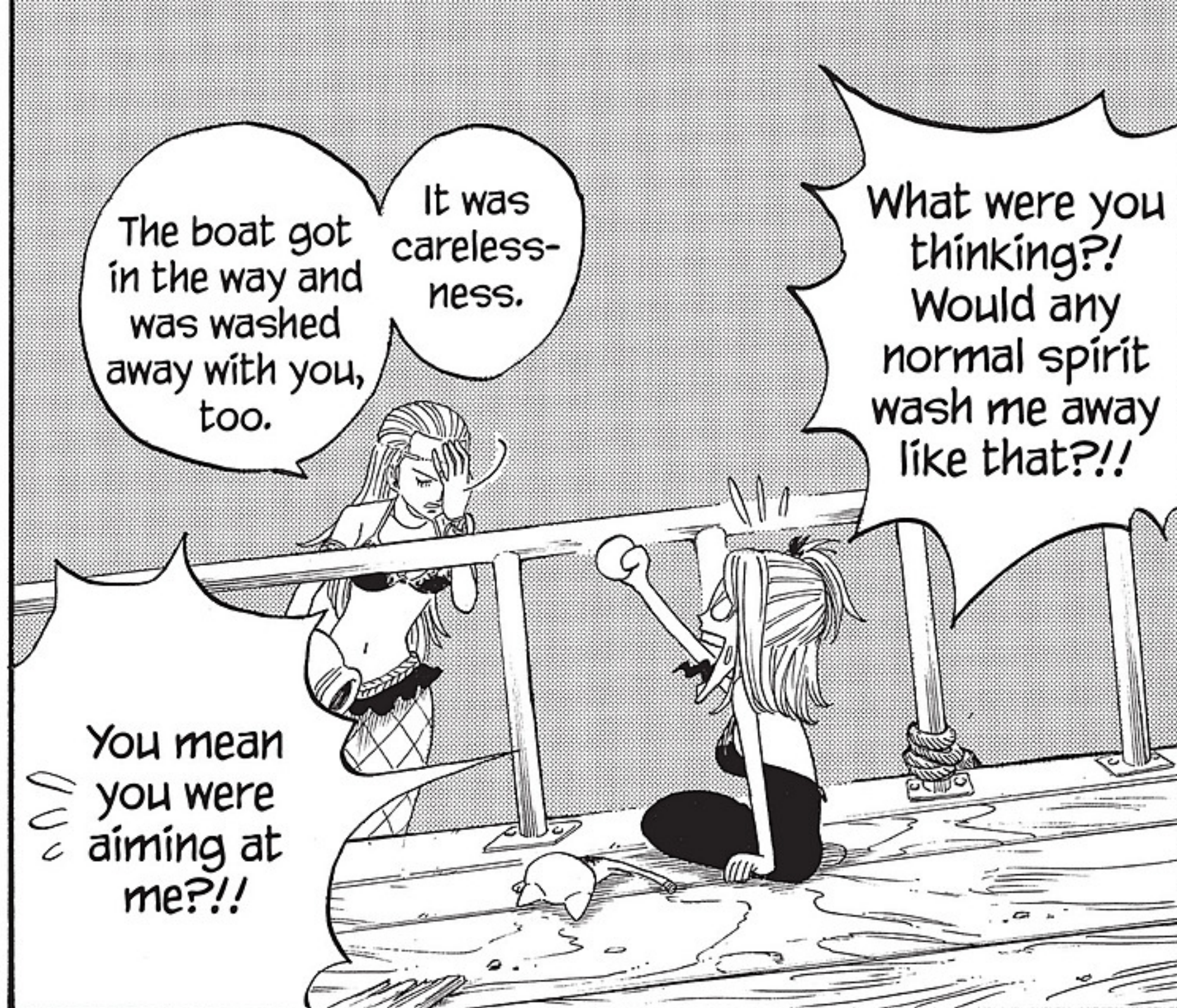
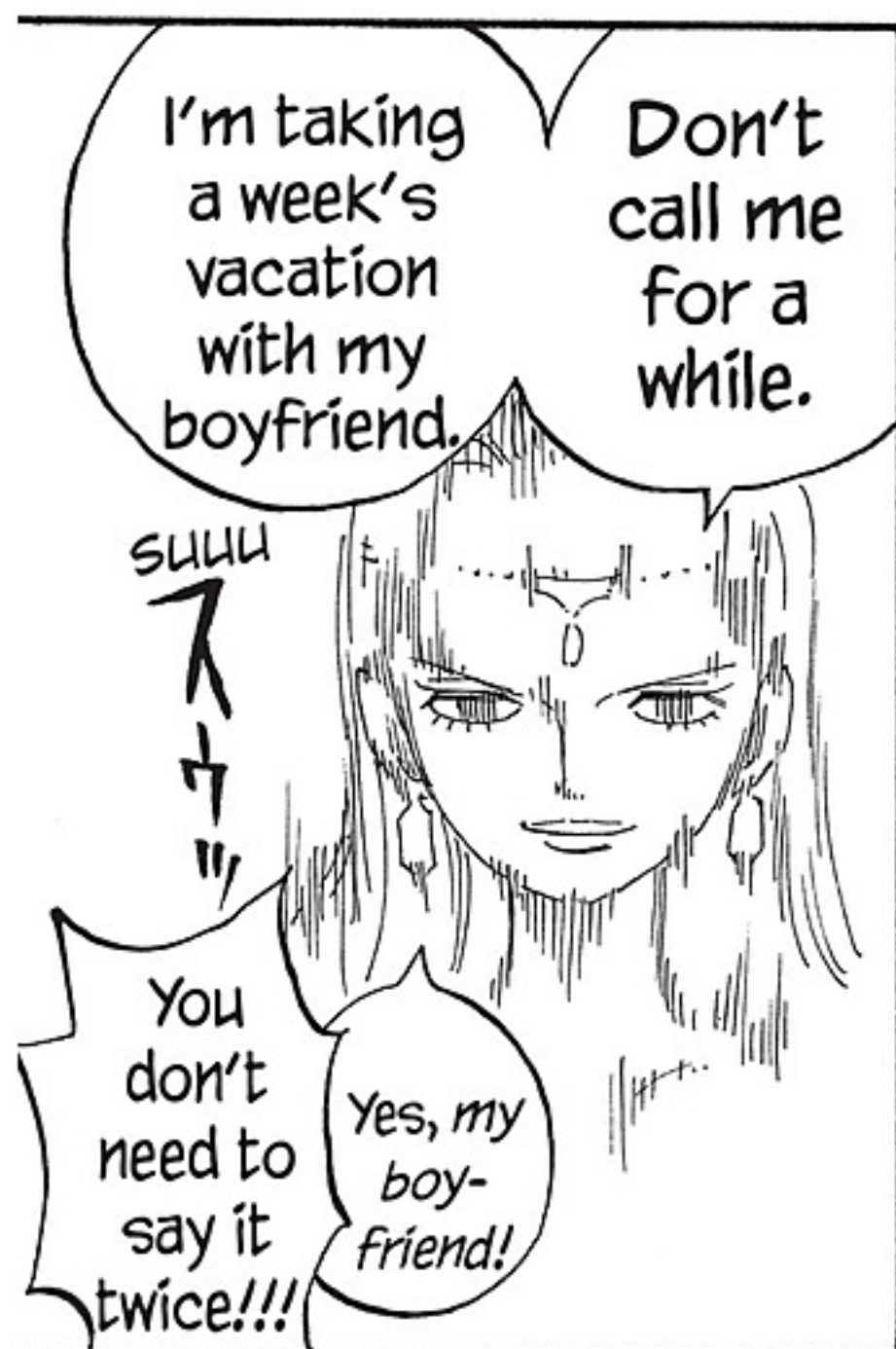
I-I'm
sorry!!

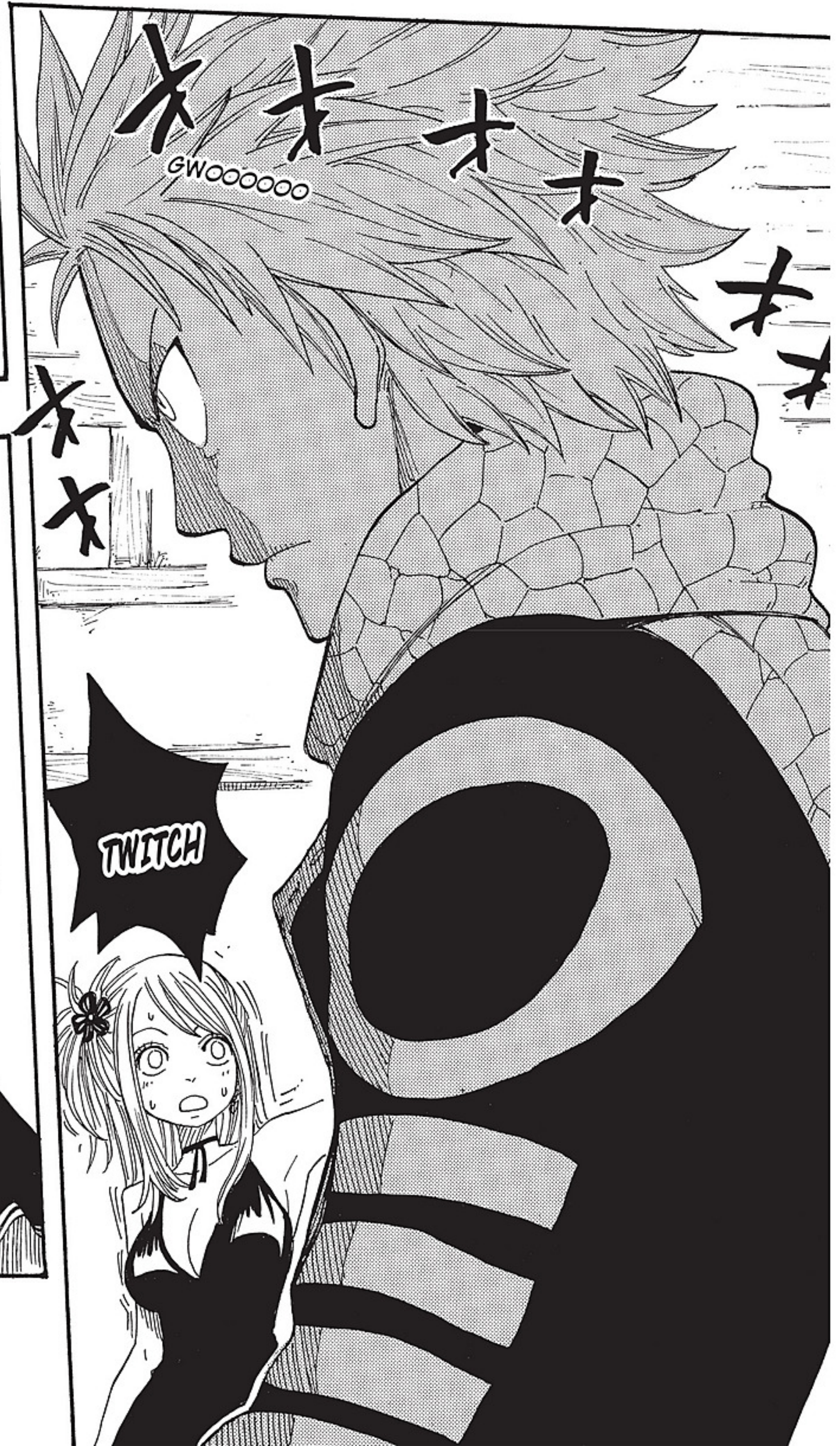
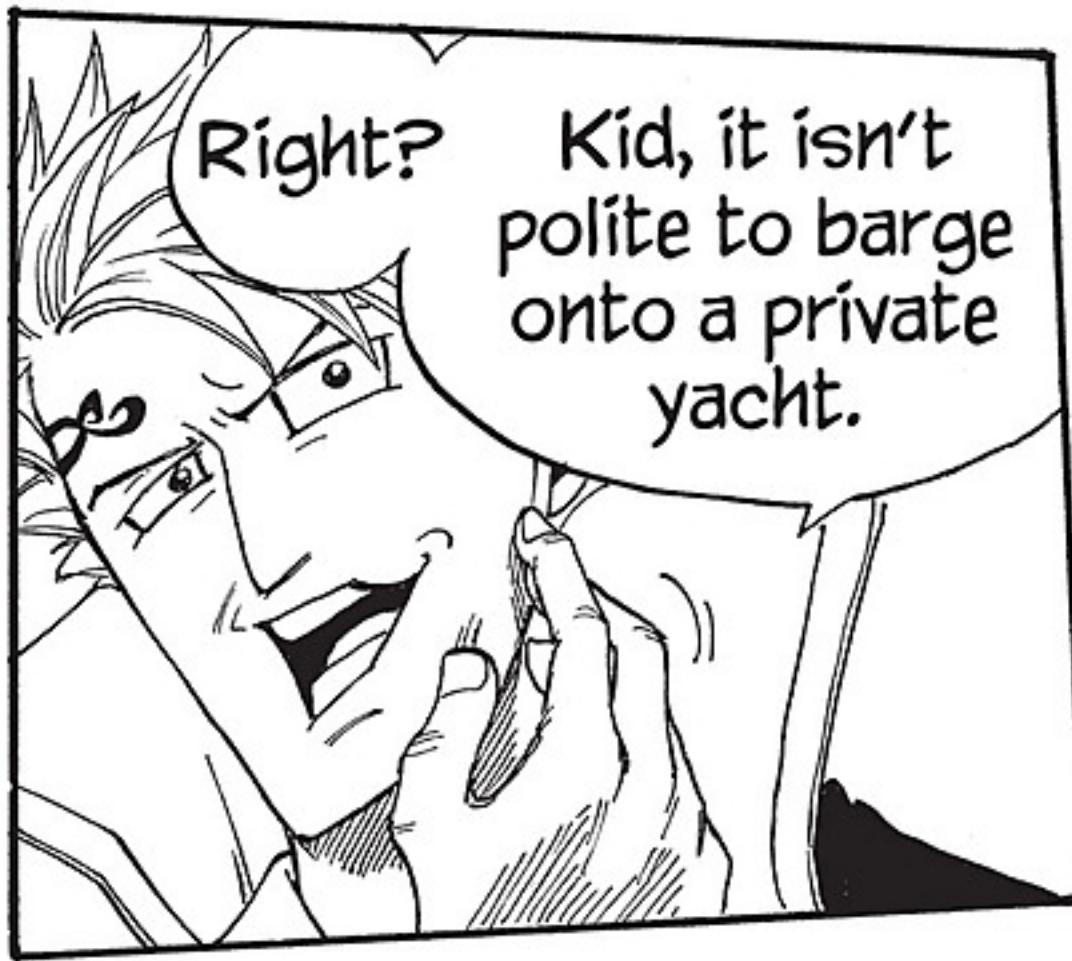
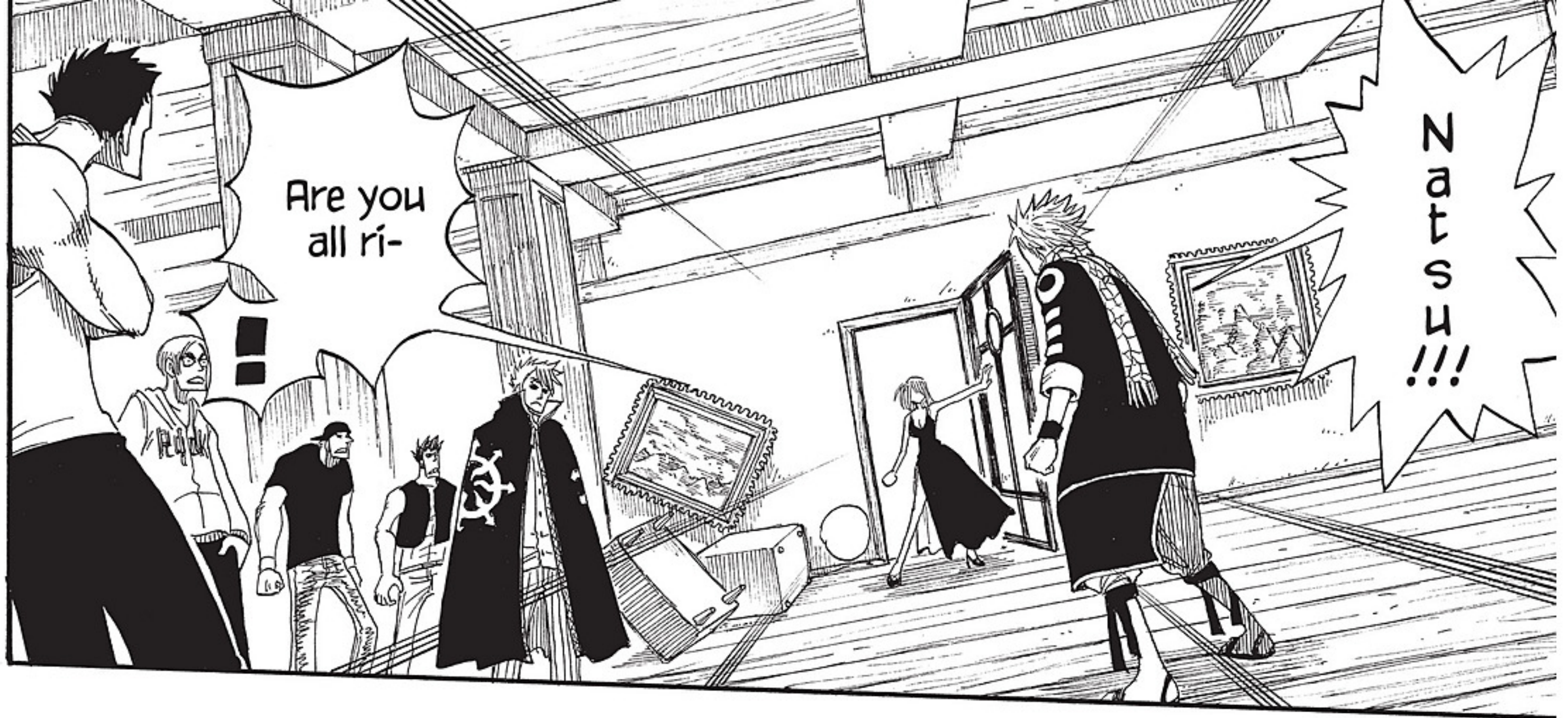


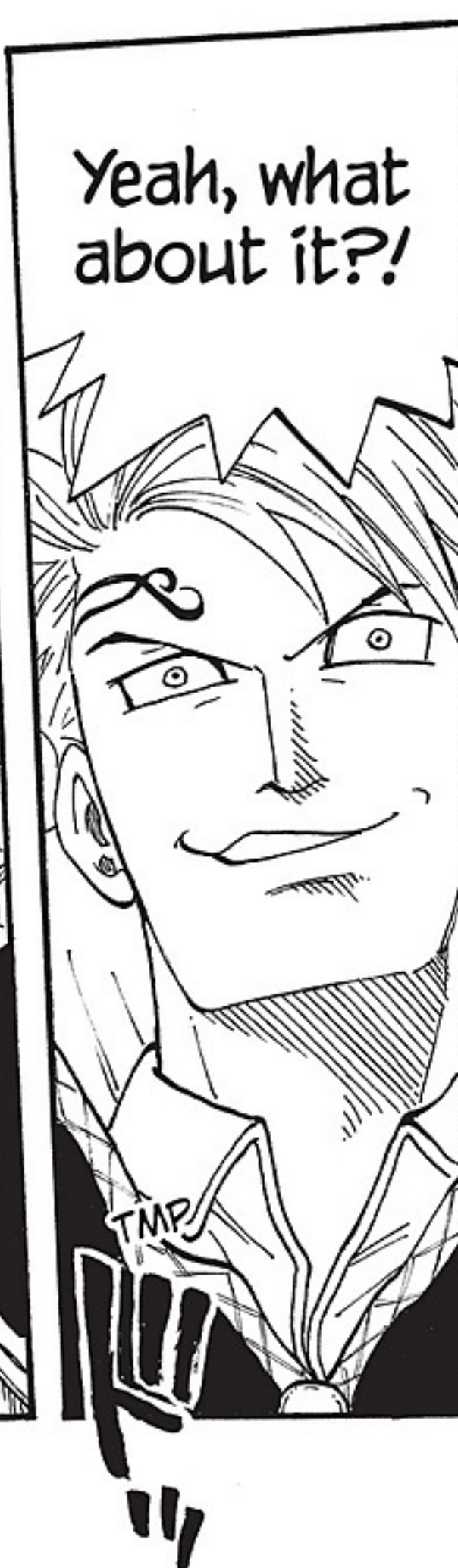
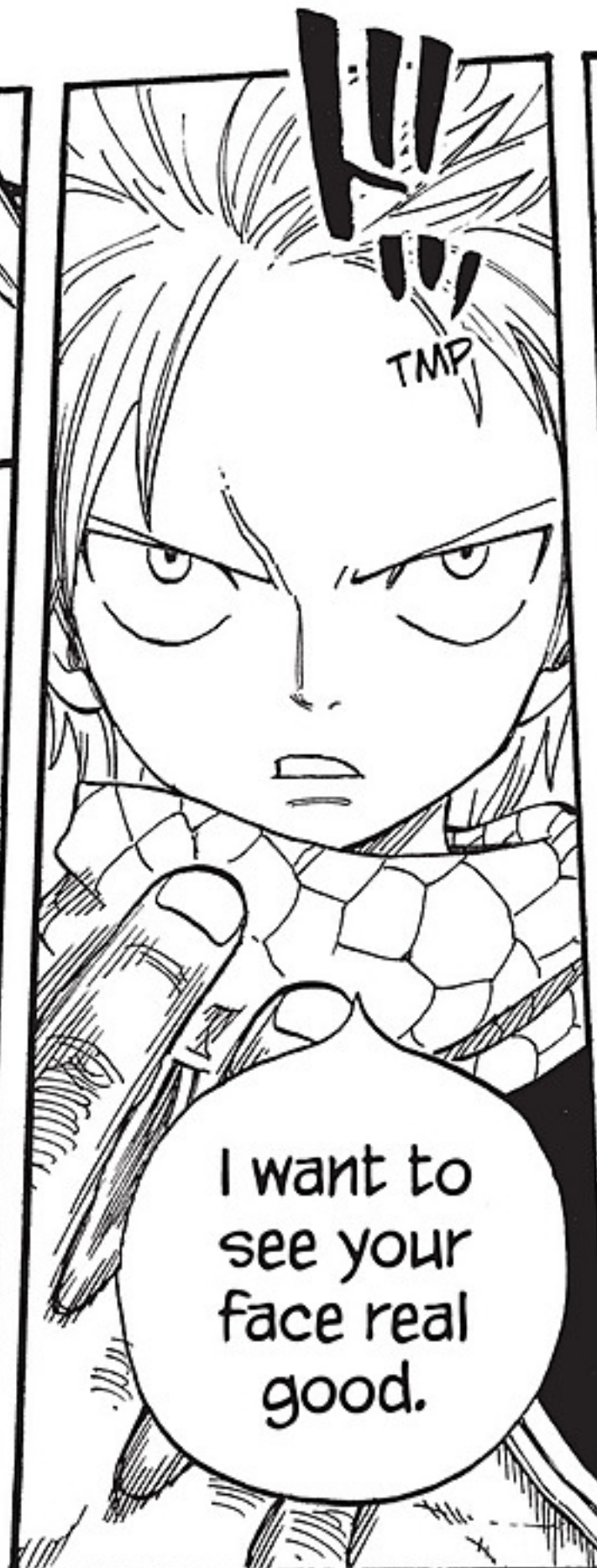
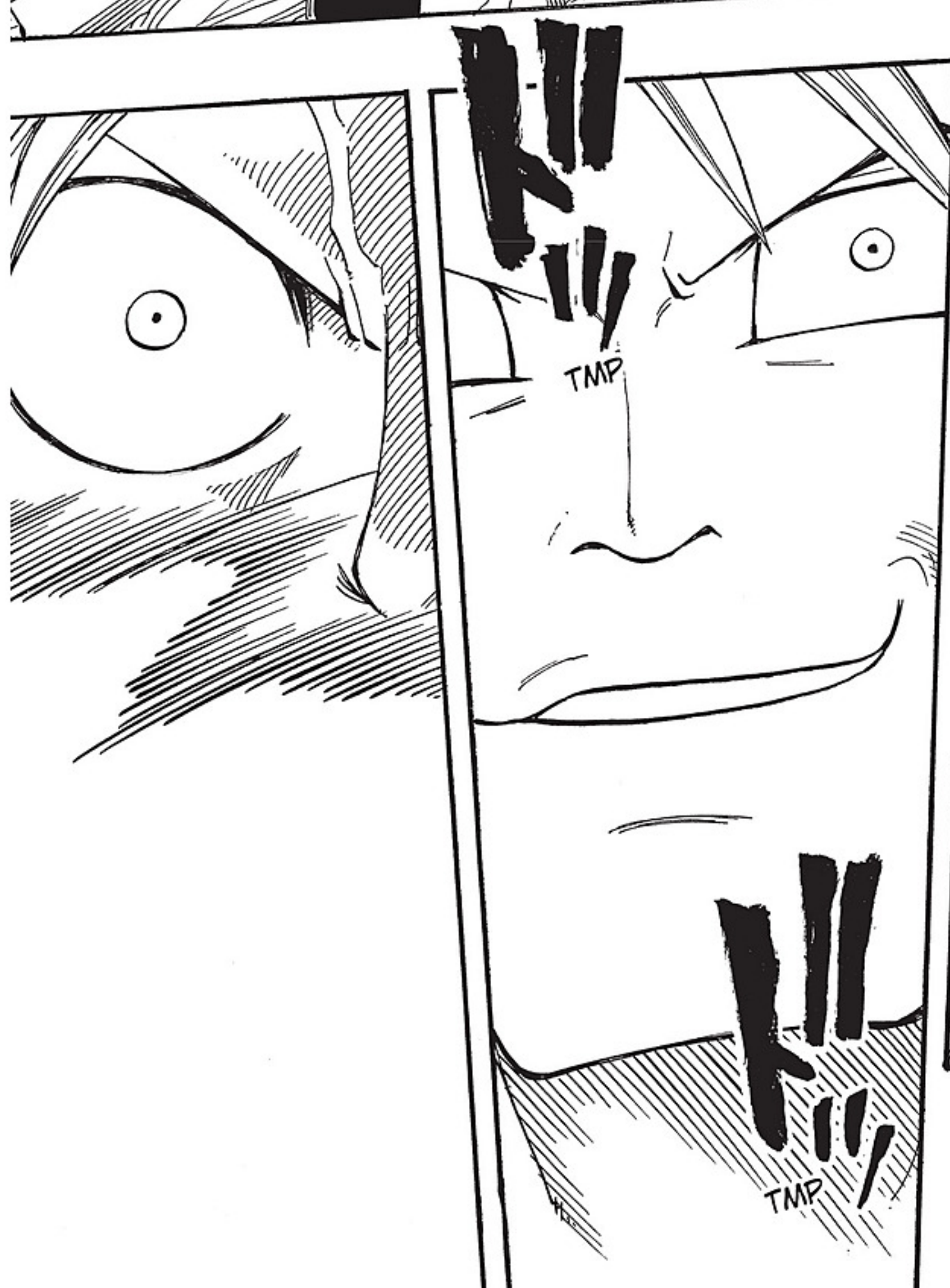
I have
one
thing to
say.



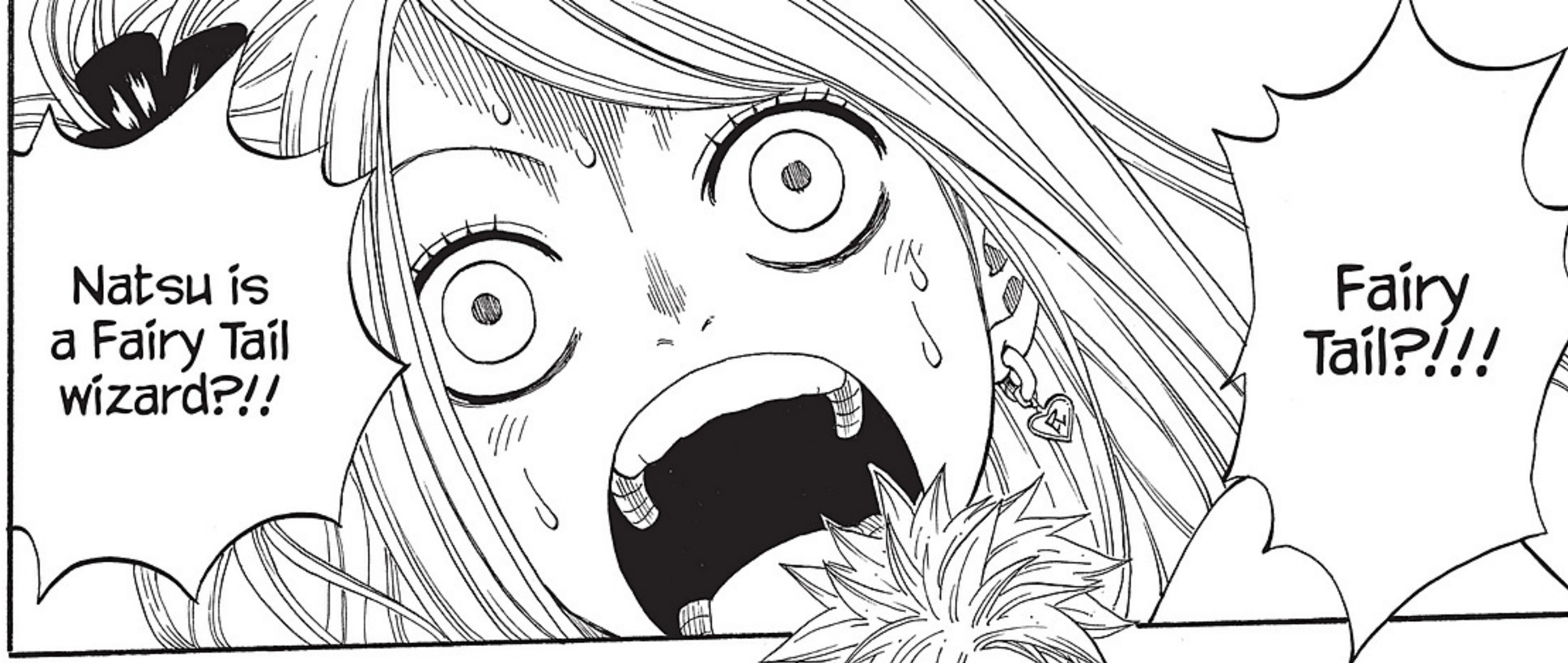






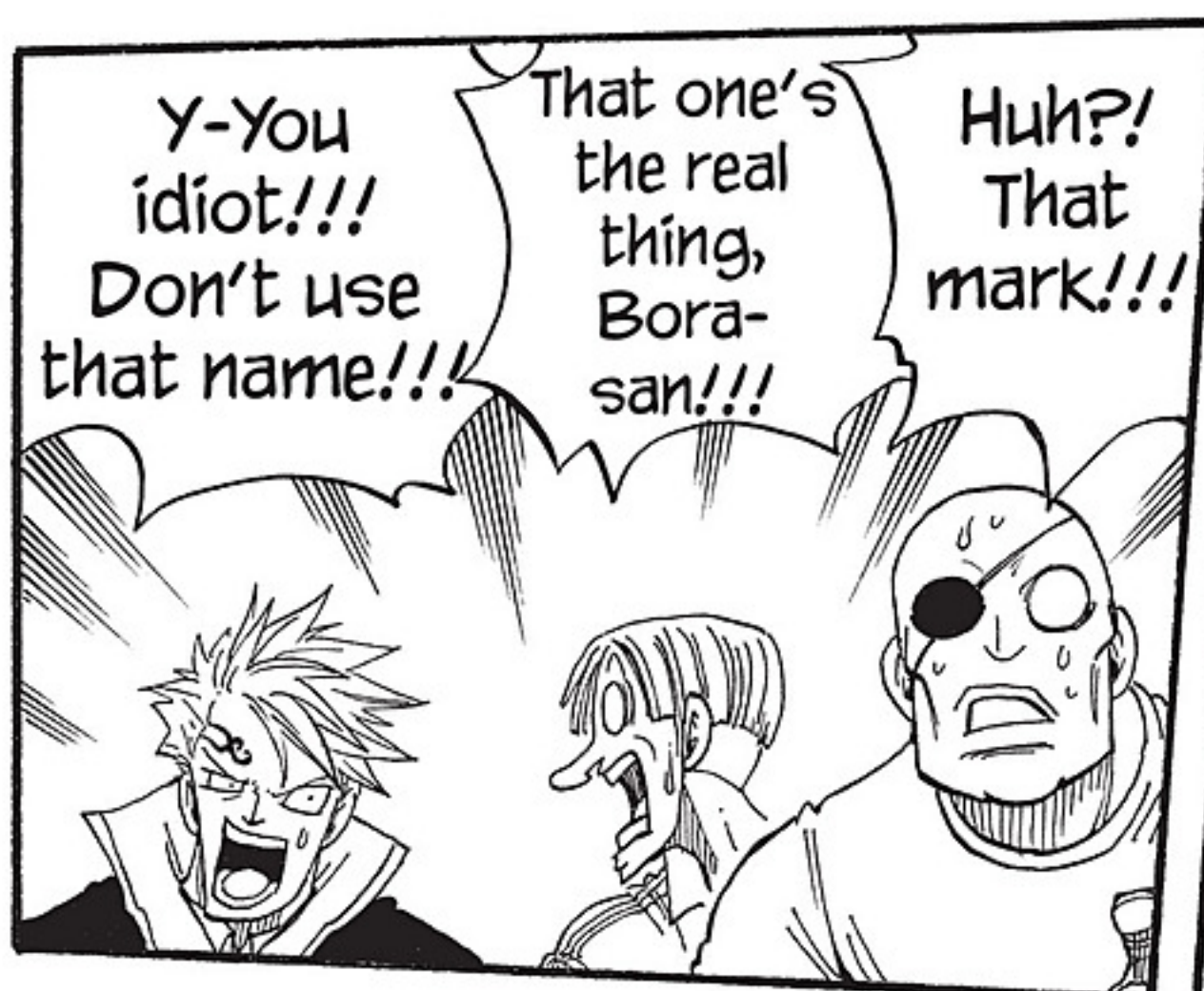






Natsu is
a Fairy Tail
wizard?!!

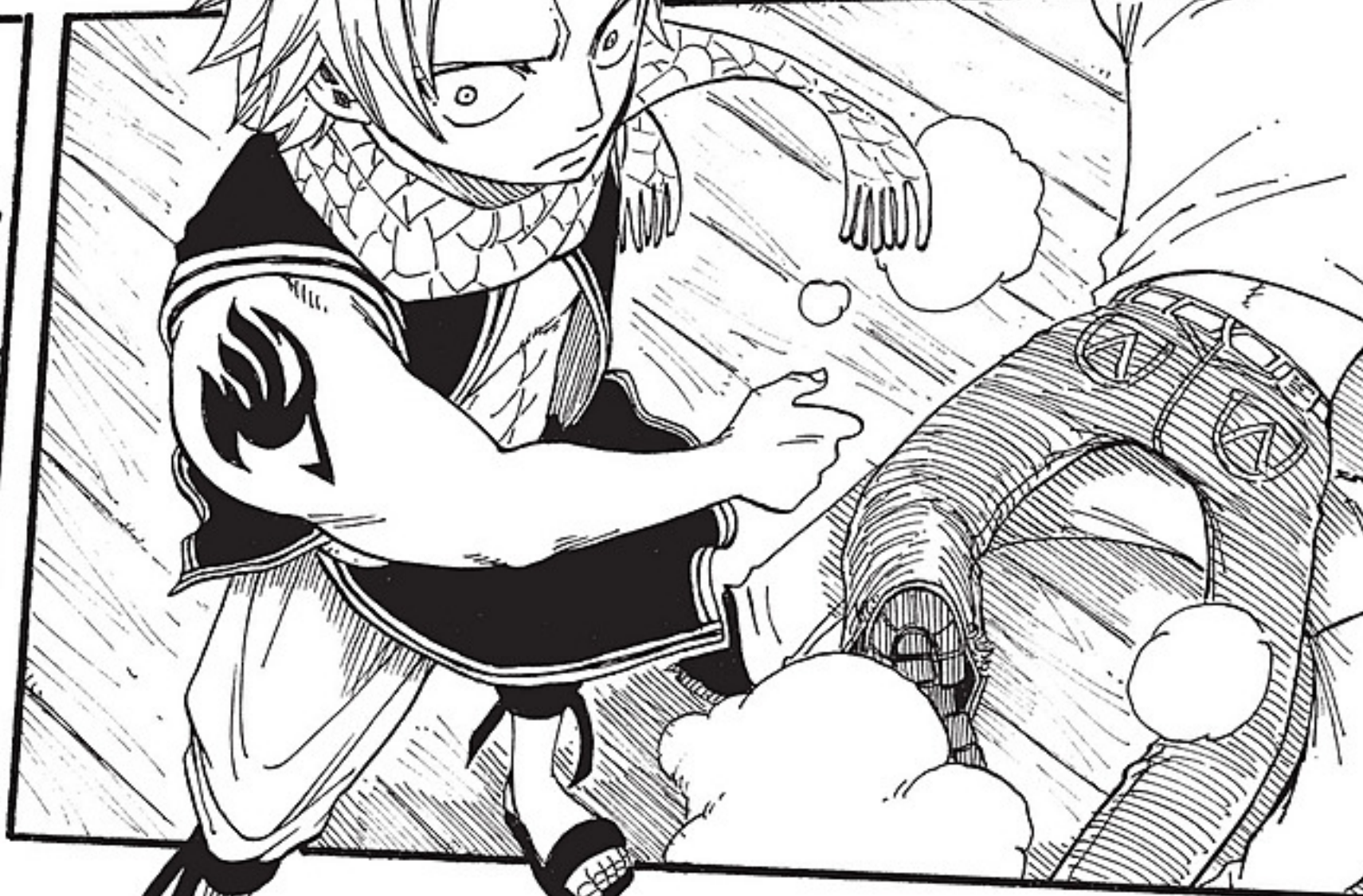
Fairy
Tail?!!!



Y-You
idiot!!!
Don't use
that name!!!

That one's
the real
thing,
Bora-
san!!!

Huh?!
That
mark!!!



I heard about
that! He was
expelled for
repeatedly using
magic to aid in
thievery.



Bora...A few
years back a man
named Bora the
Prominence was
expelled from the
Titan Nose wizard
guild.

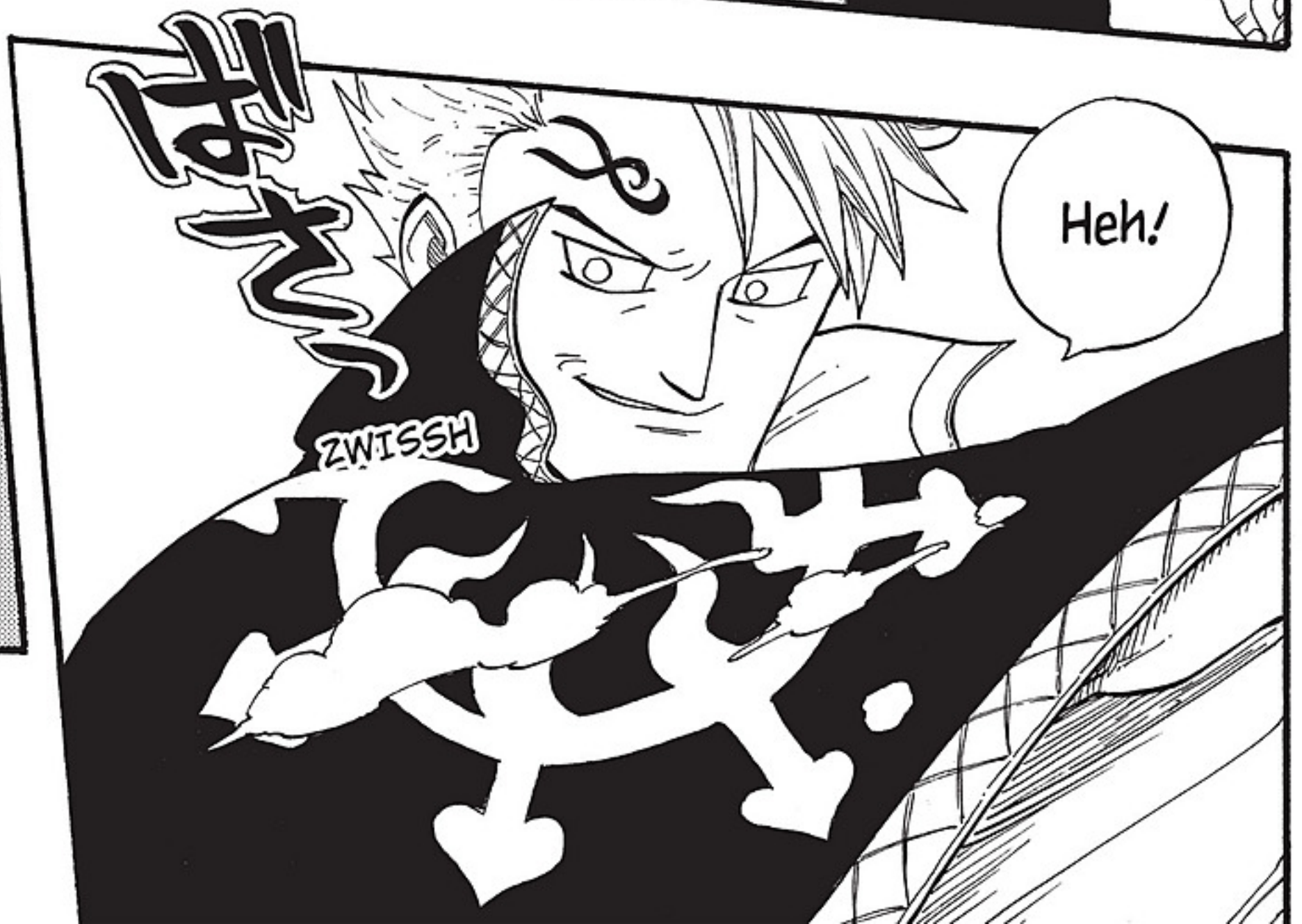
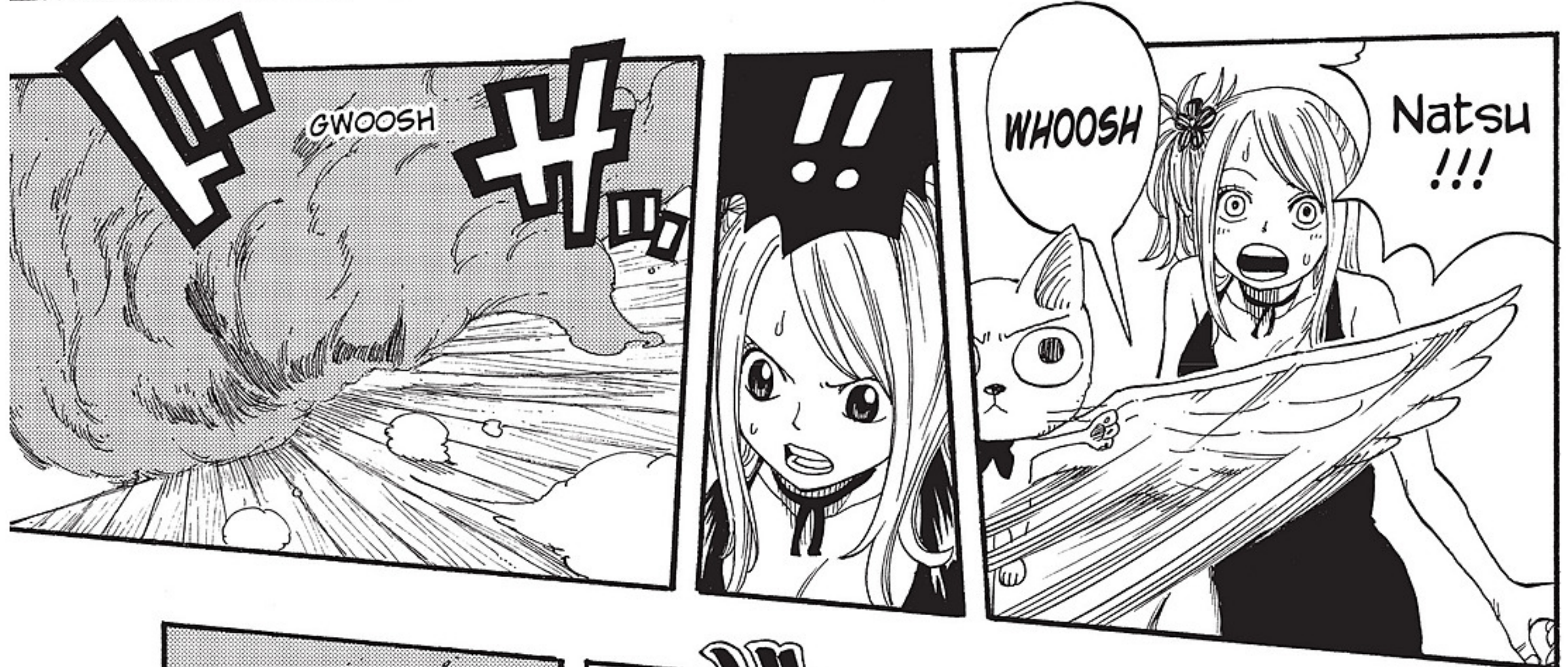


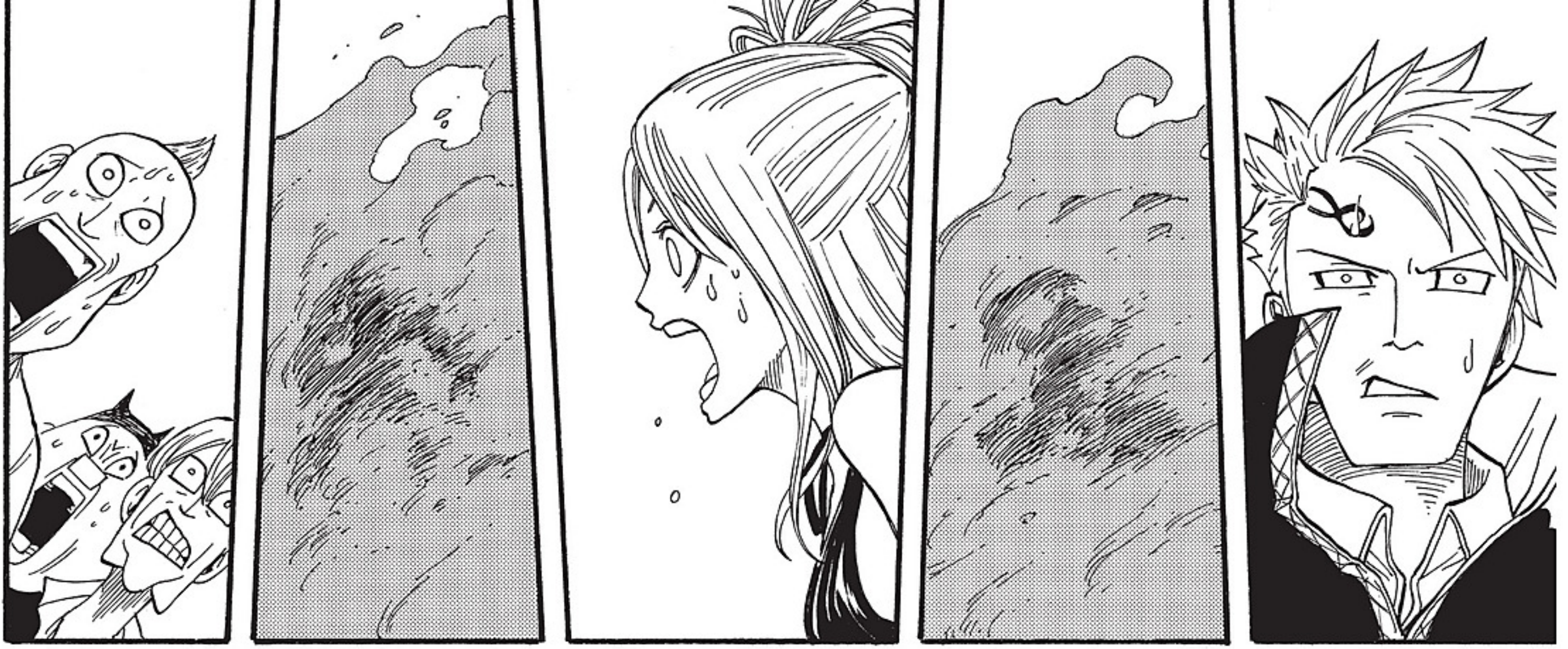
But I'm not
going to let
you slander
the name of
Fairy Tail!!!

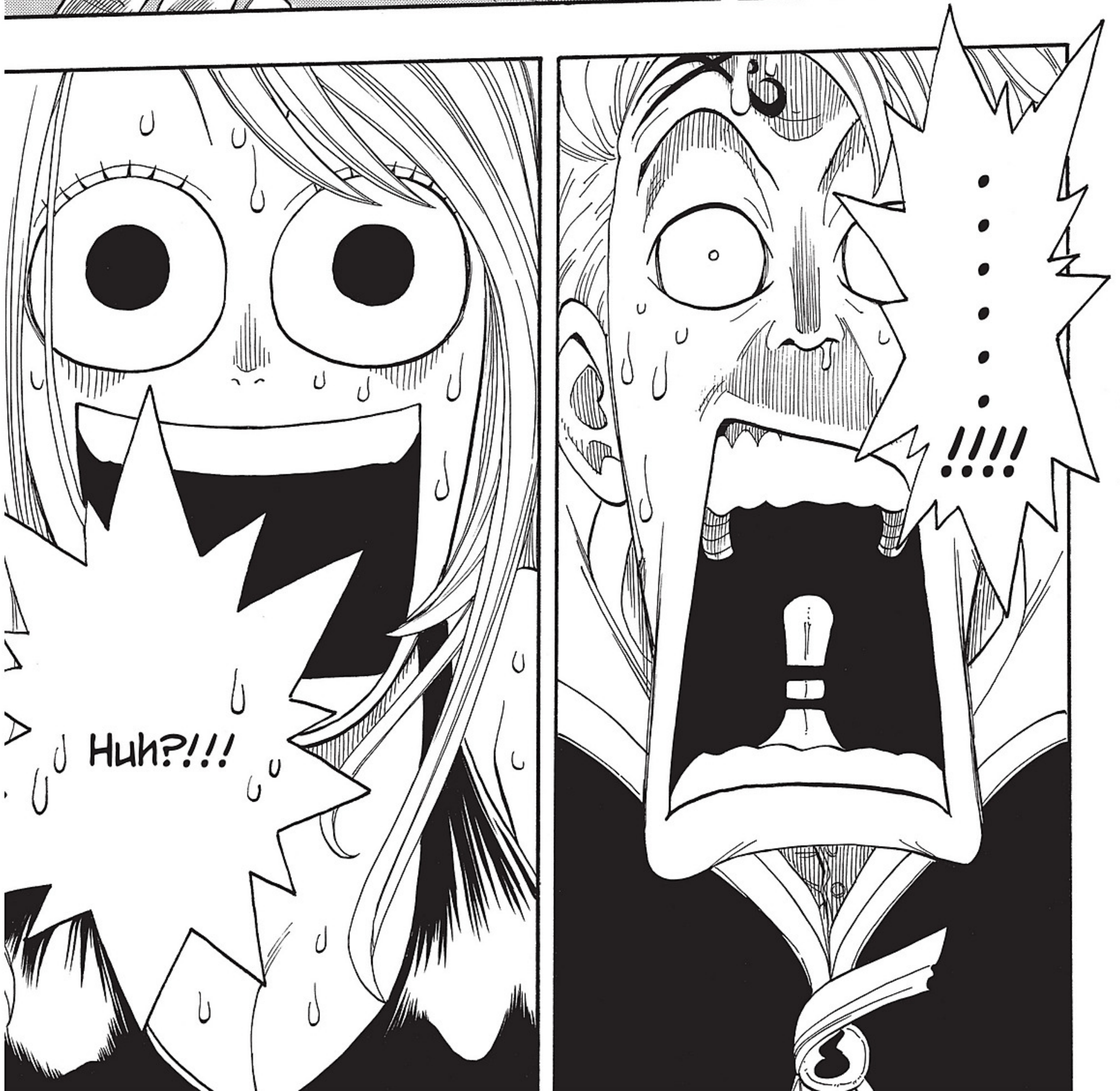
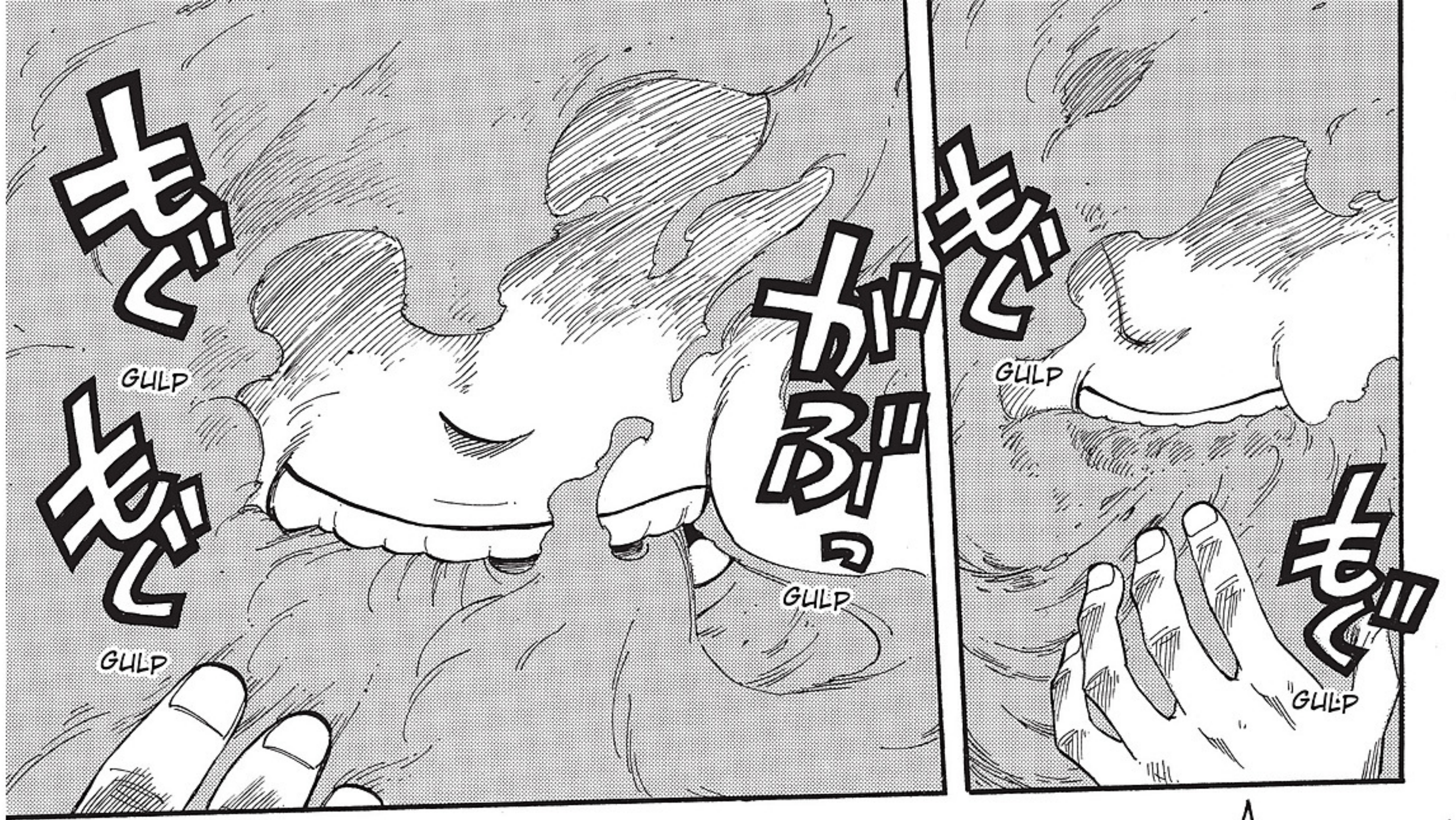
You could be
good or evil!
It makes no
difference to
me!!

GRND

ooo







Ahhh...

GWOOOOO

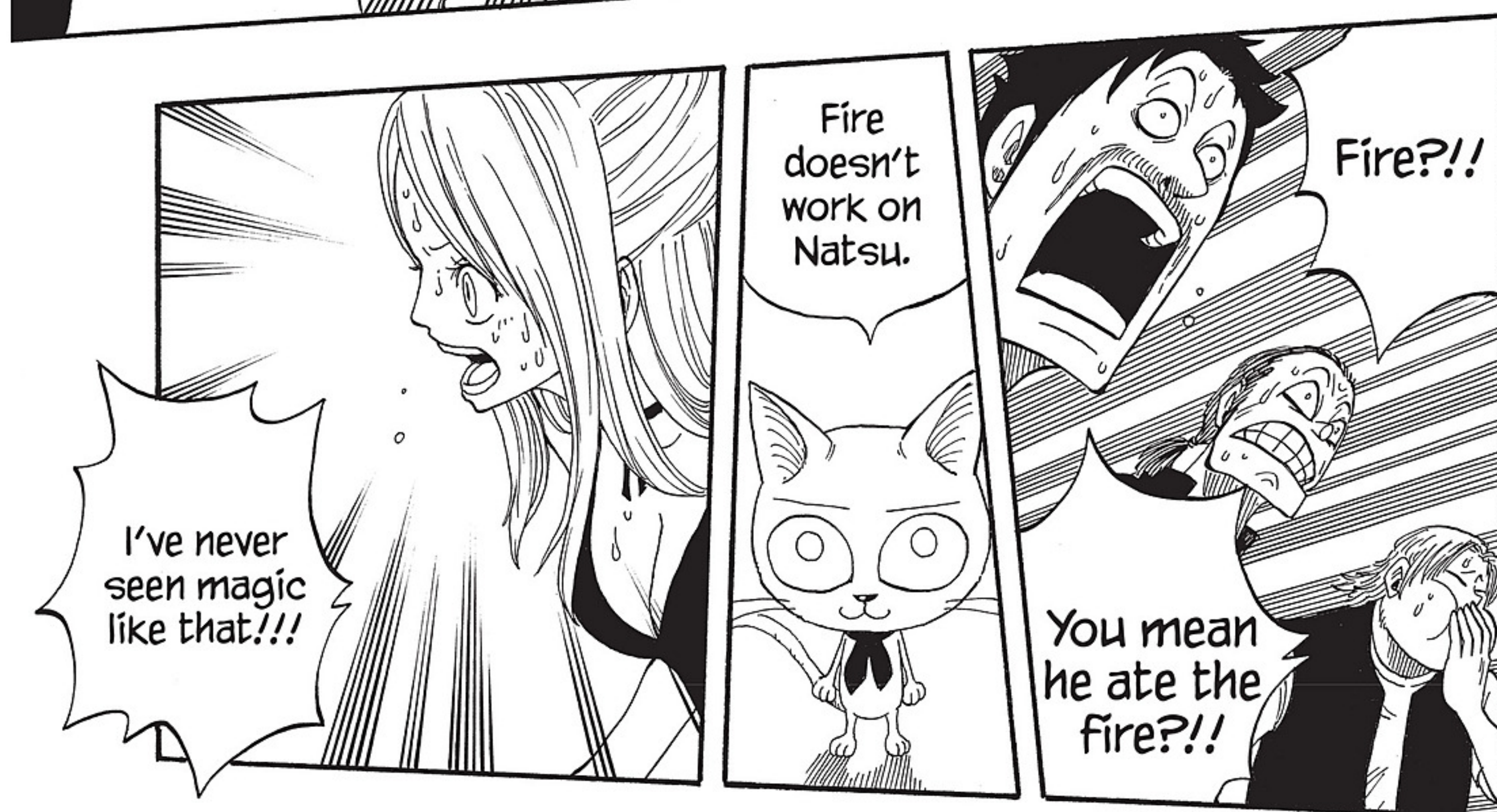
But thanks
for the meal,
anyway.





What the hell is this guy?!!!

Wh...
Wh-Wha...

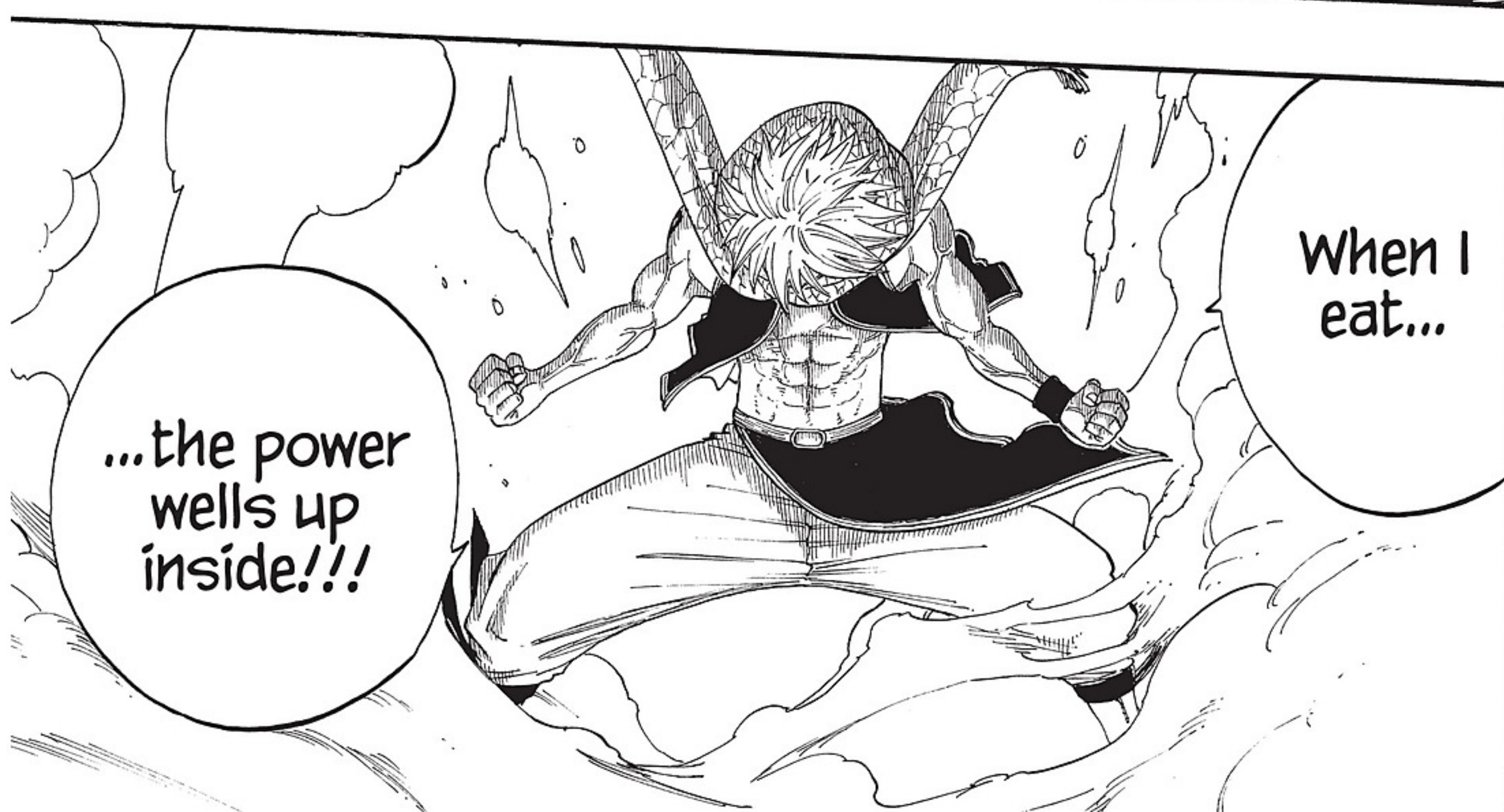


I've never
seen magic
like that!!!

Fire
doesn't
work on
Natsu.

Fire?!!

You mean
he ate the
fire?!!

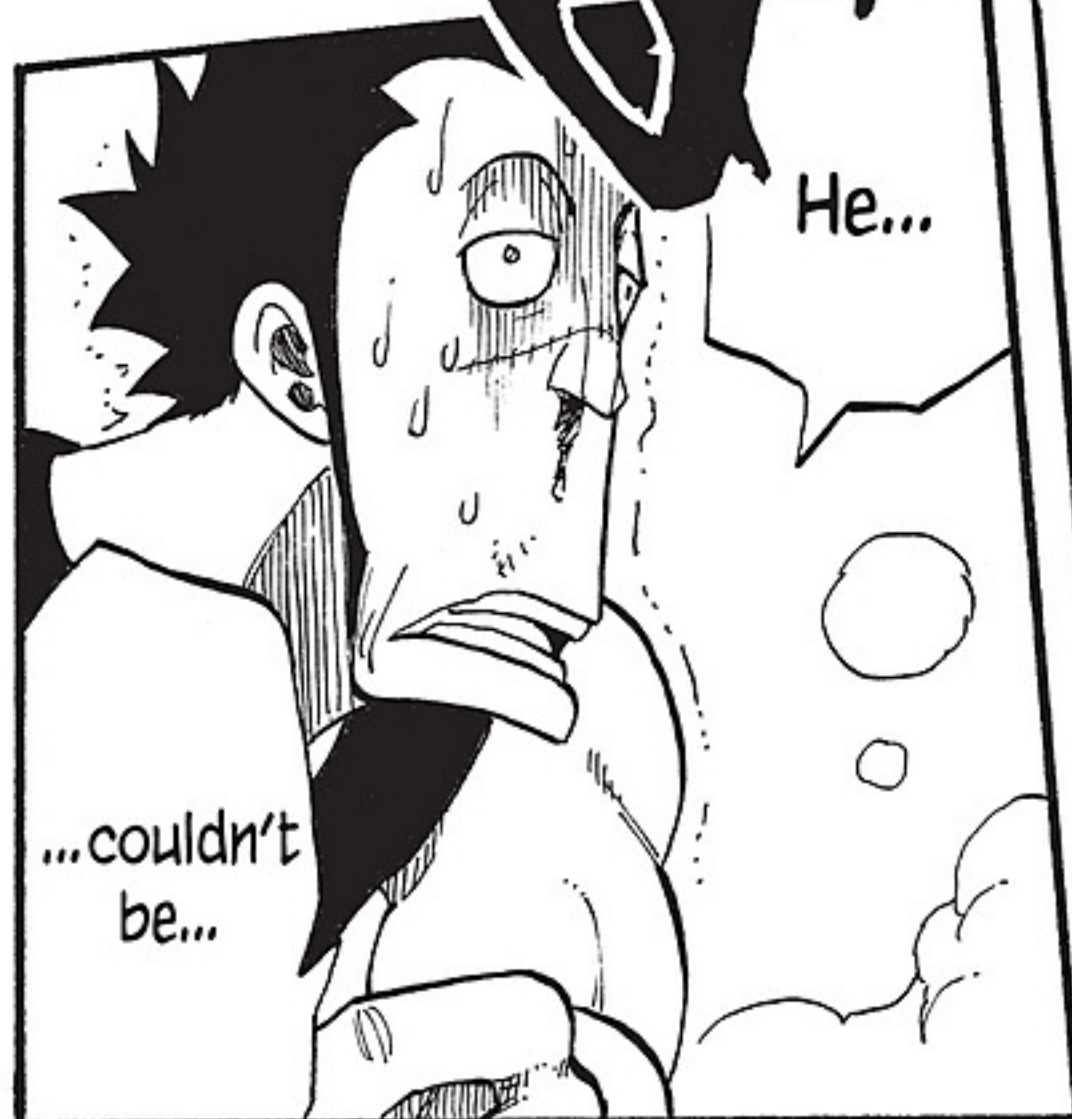
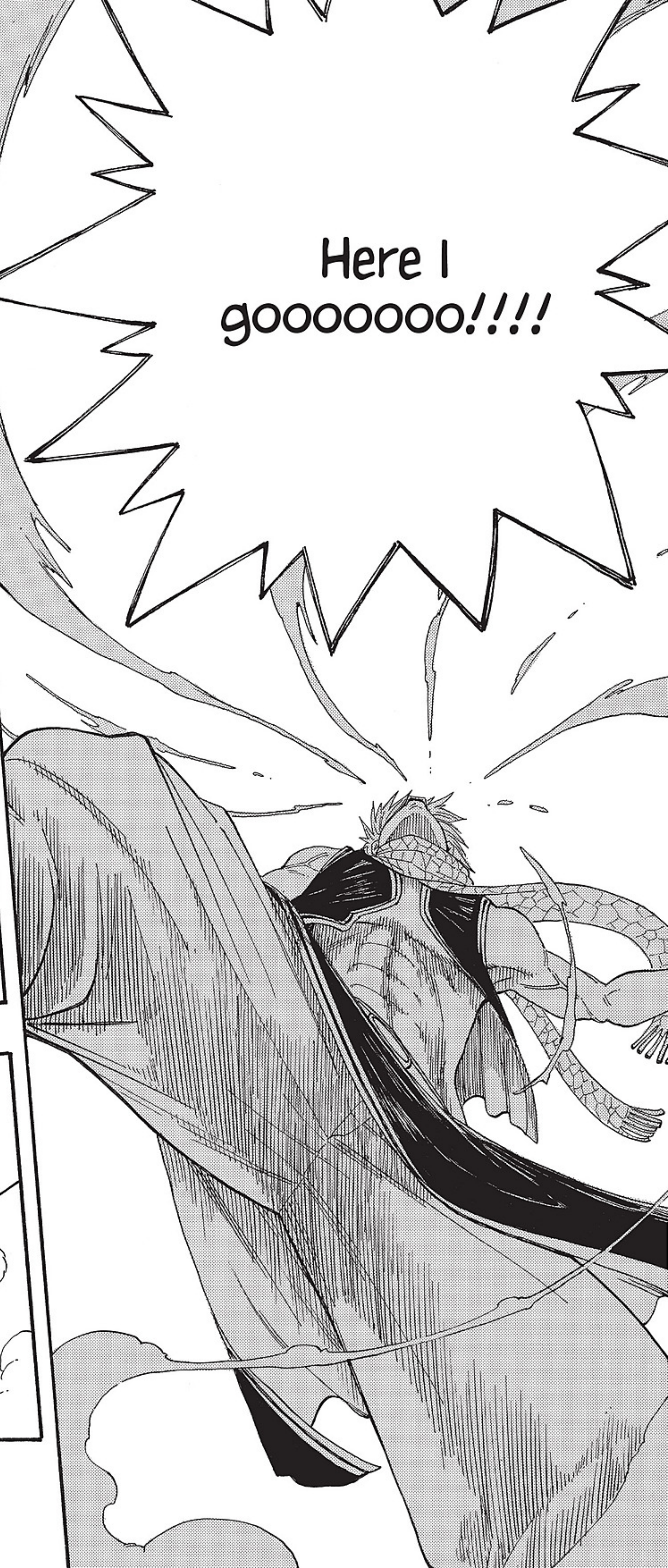


...the power
wells up
inside!!!

When I
eat...

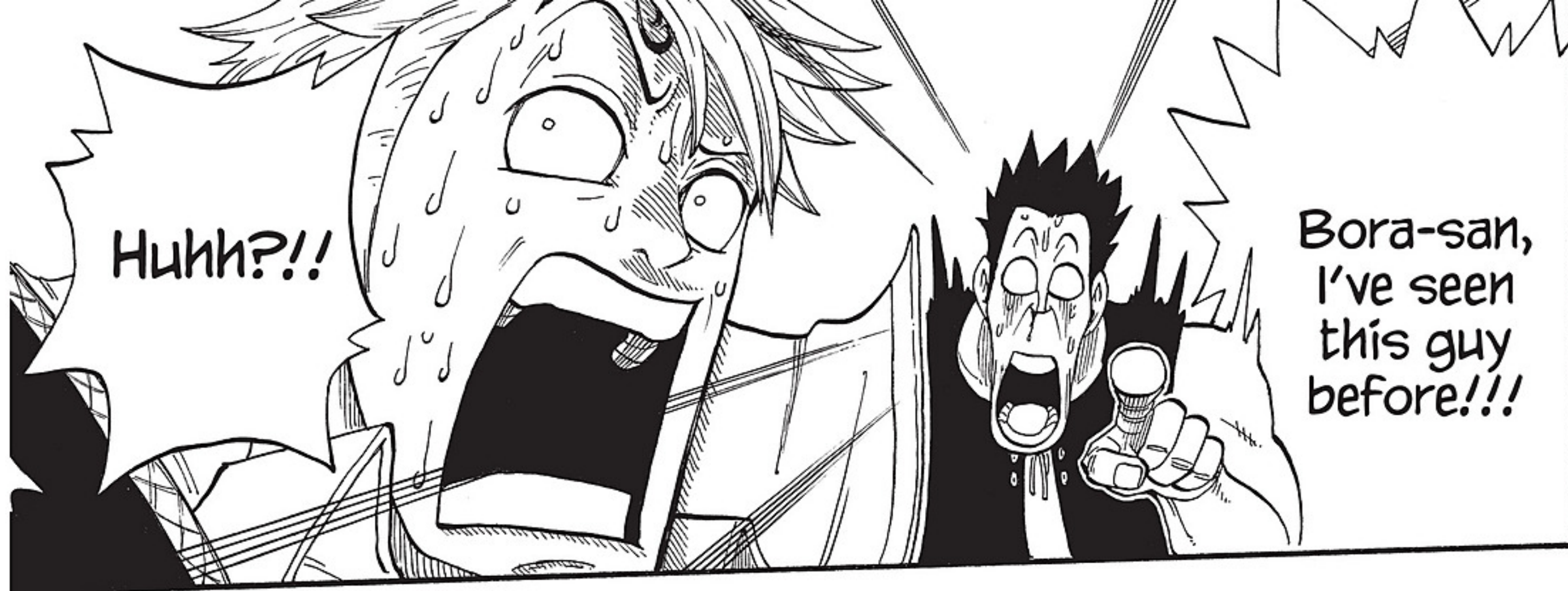


Here I
gooooooooo!!!!



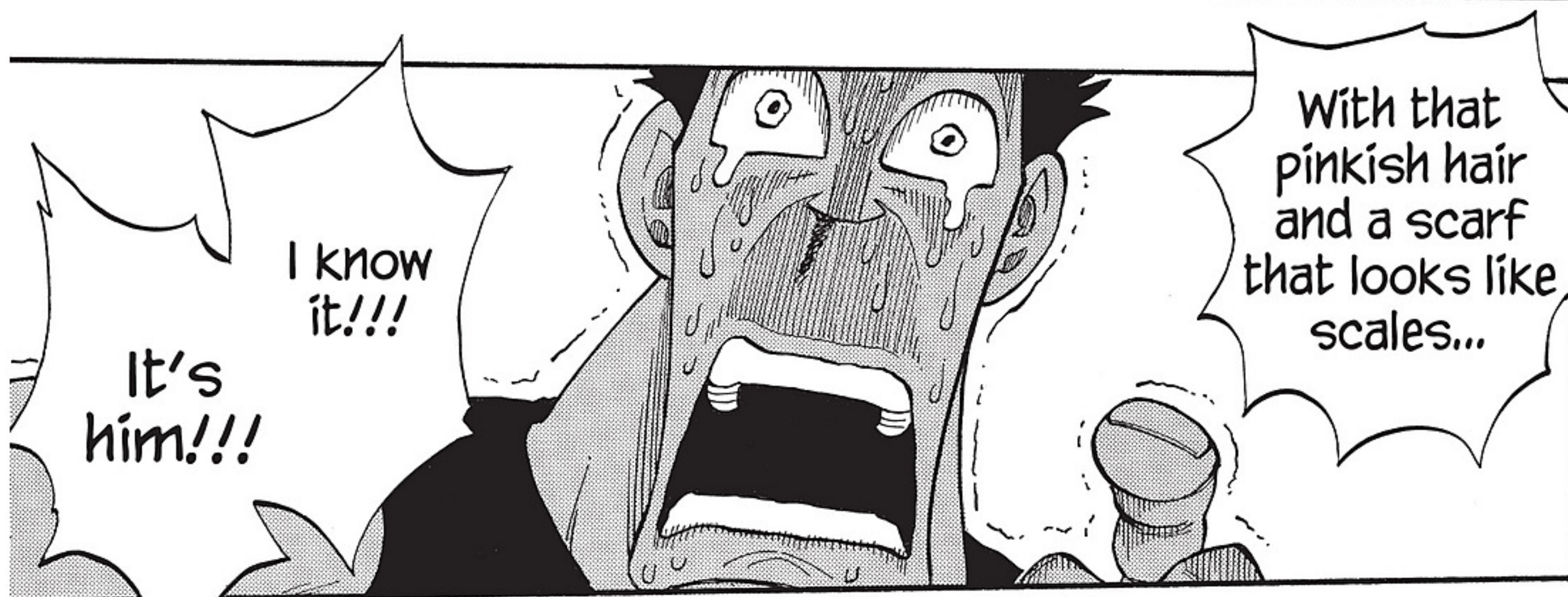
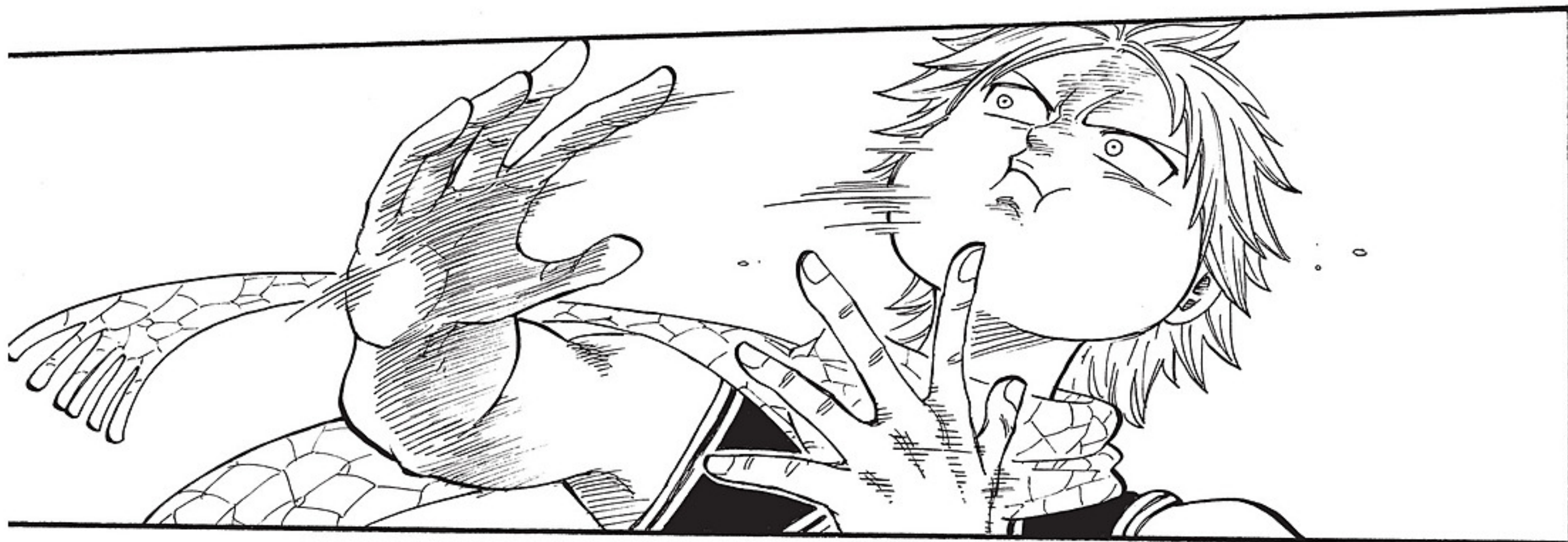
He...

...couldn't
be...



Huhh?!!

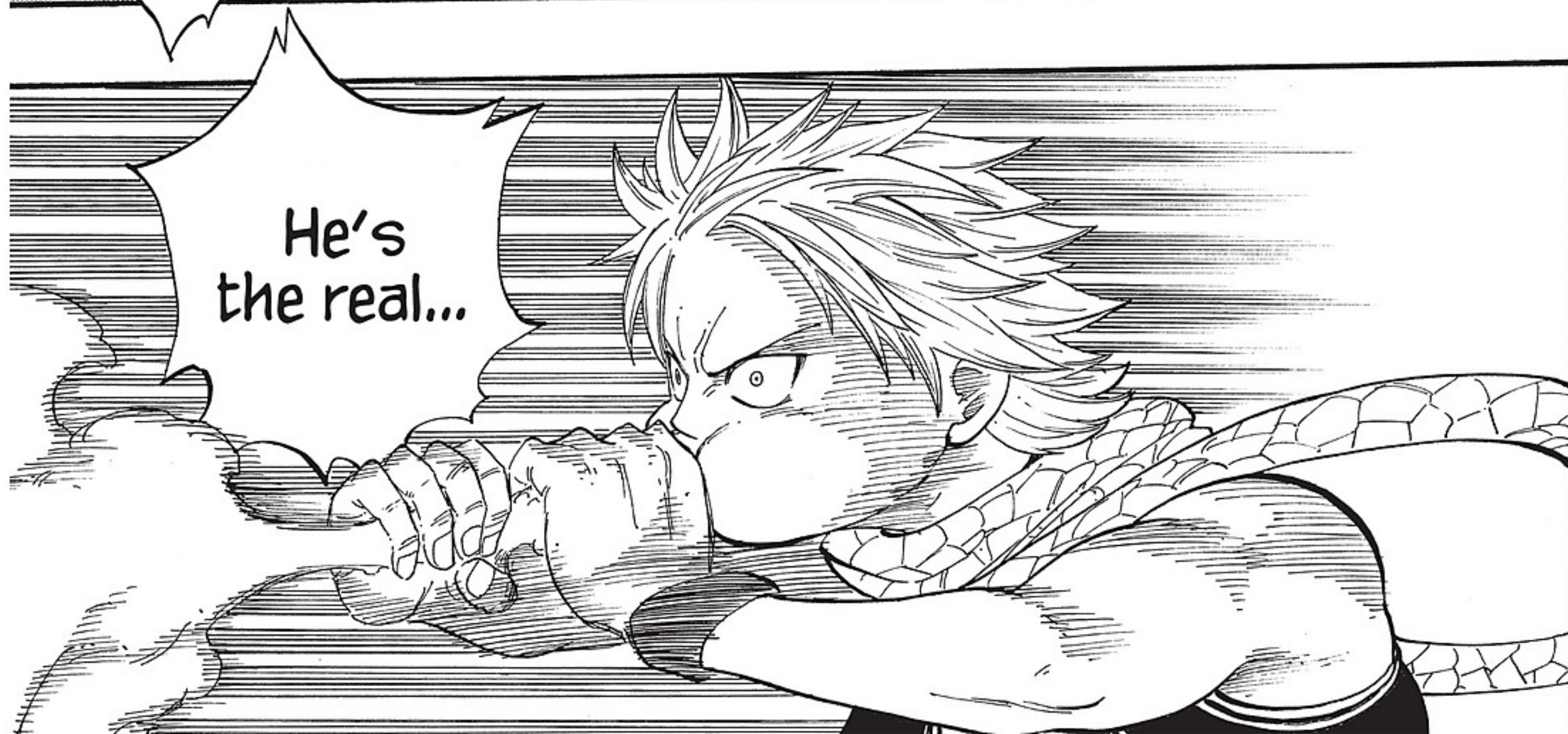
Bora-san,
I've seen
this guy
before!!!



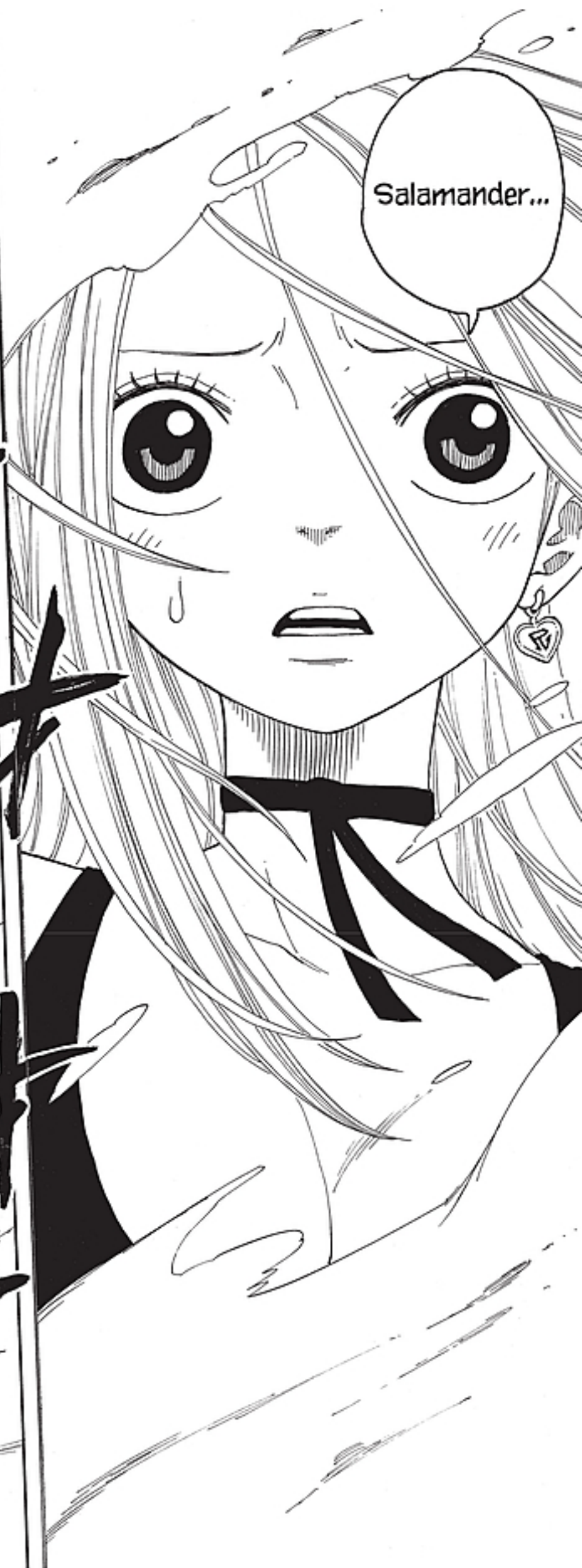
It's
him!!!

I know
it!!!

With that
pinkish hair
and a scarf
that looks like
scales...



He's
the real...





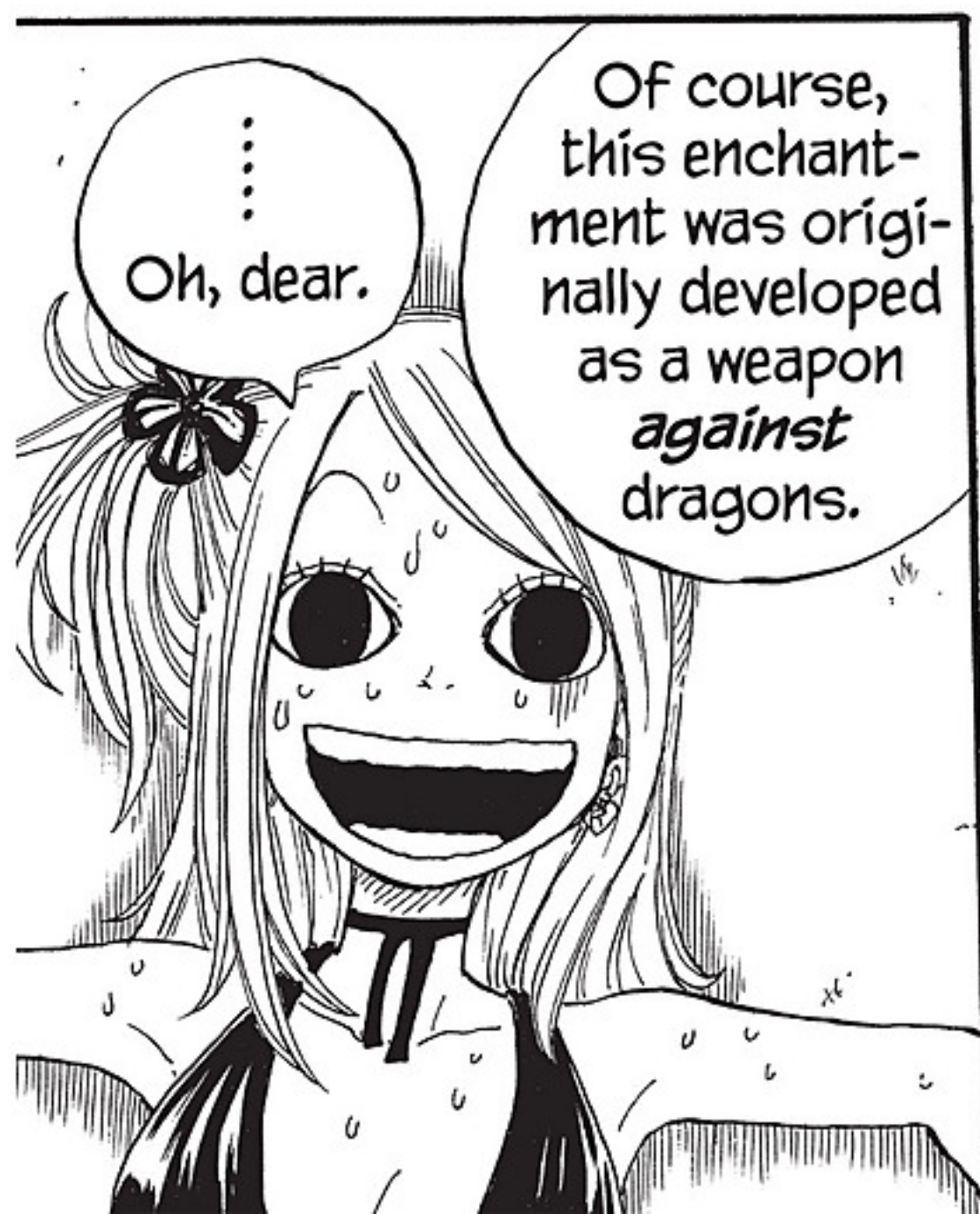
GWAMM

...wizard!!!!



Can this
even be
called
magic?!!

He eats fire...
He punches
with fire...



Oh, dear.

Of course,
this enchant-
ment was origi-
nally developed
as a weapon
against
dragons.

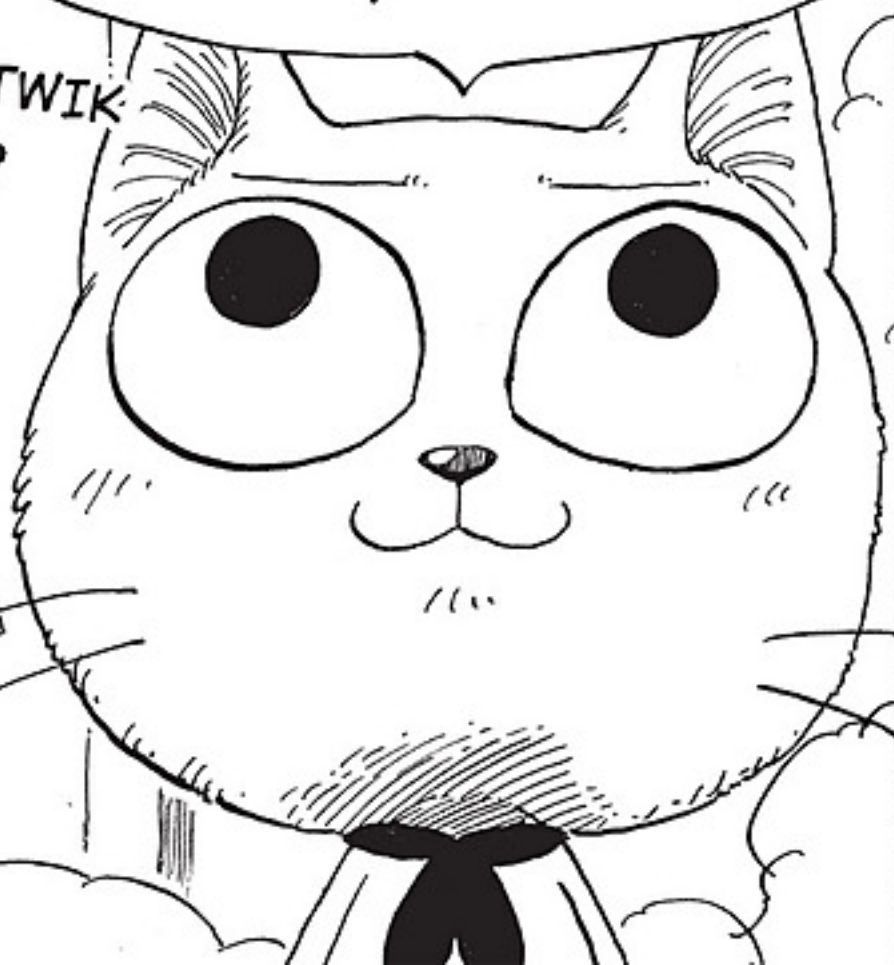
What's that
supposed to
mean?!!

This is an
enchantment that
transforms the
body and gives it
the aspects of a
dragon's body.

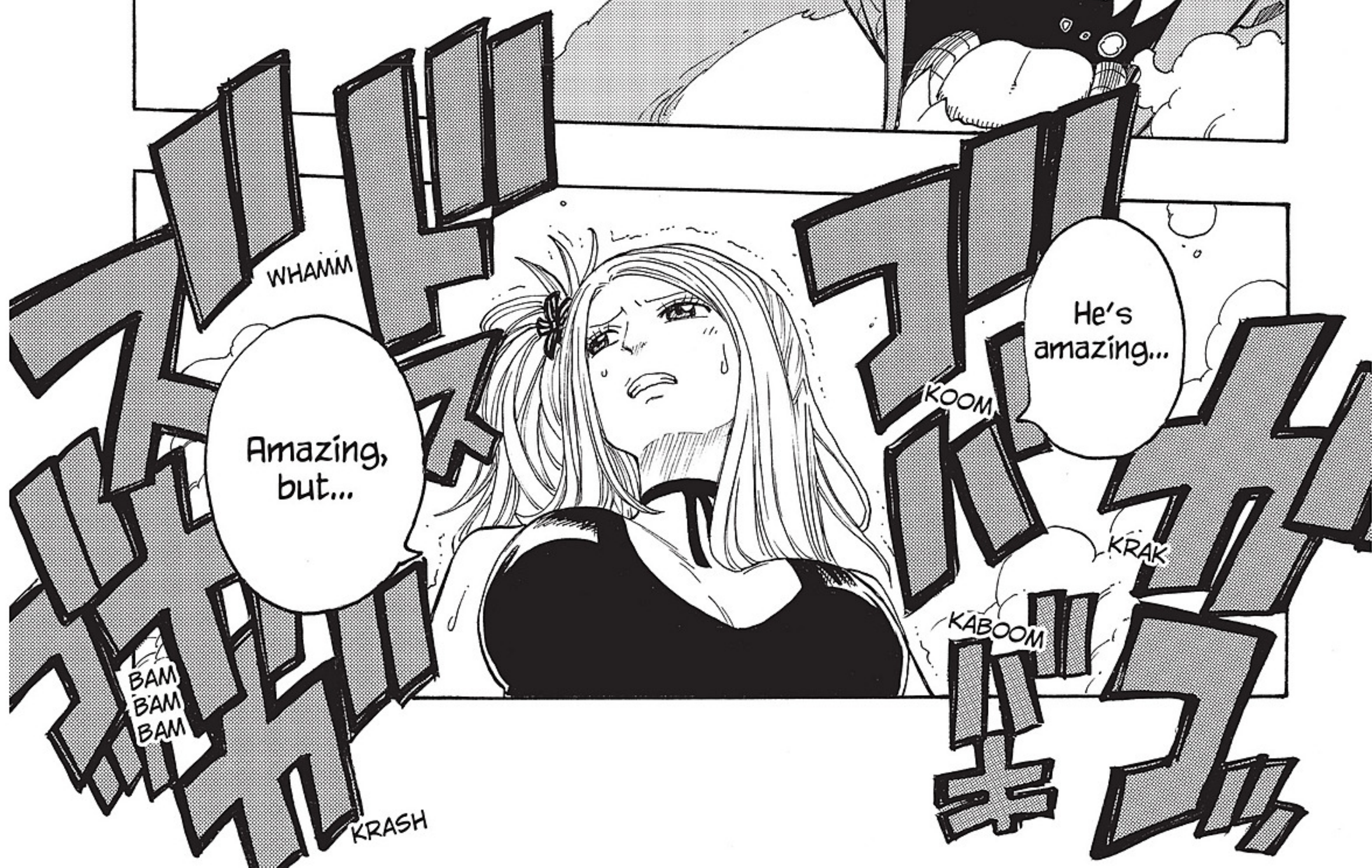
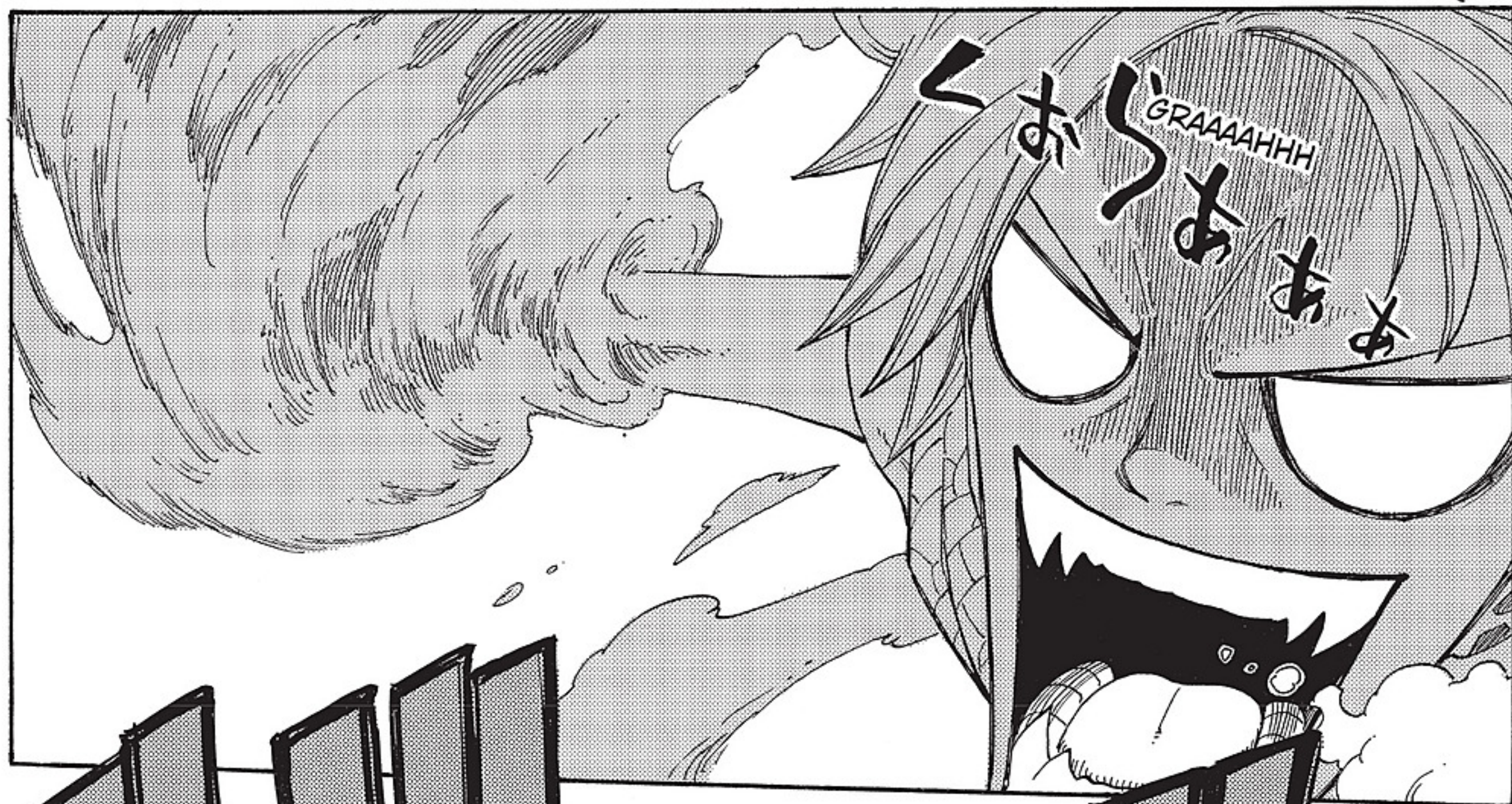
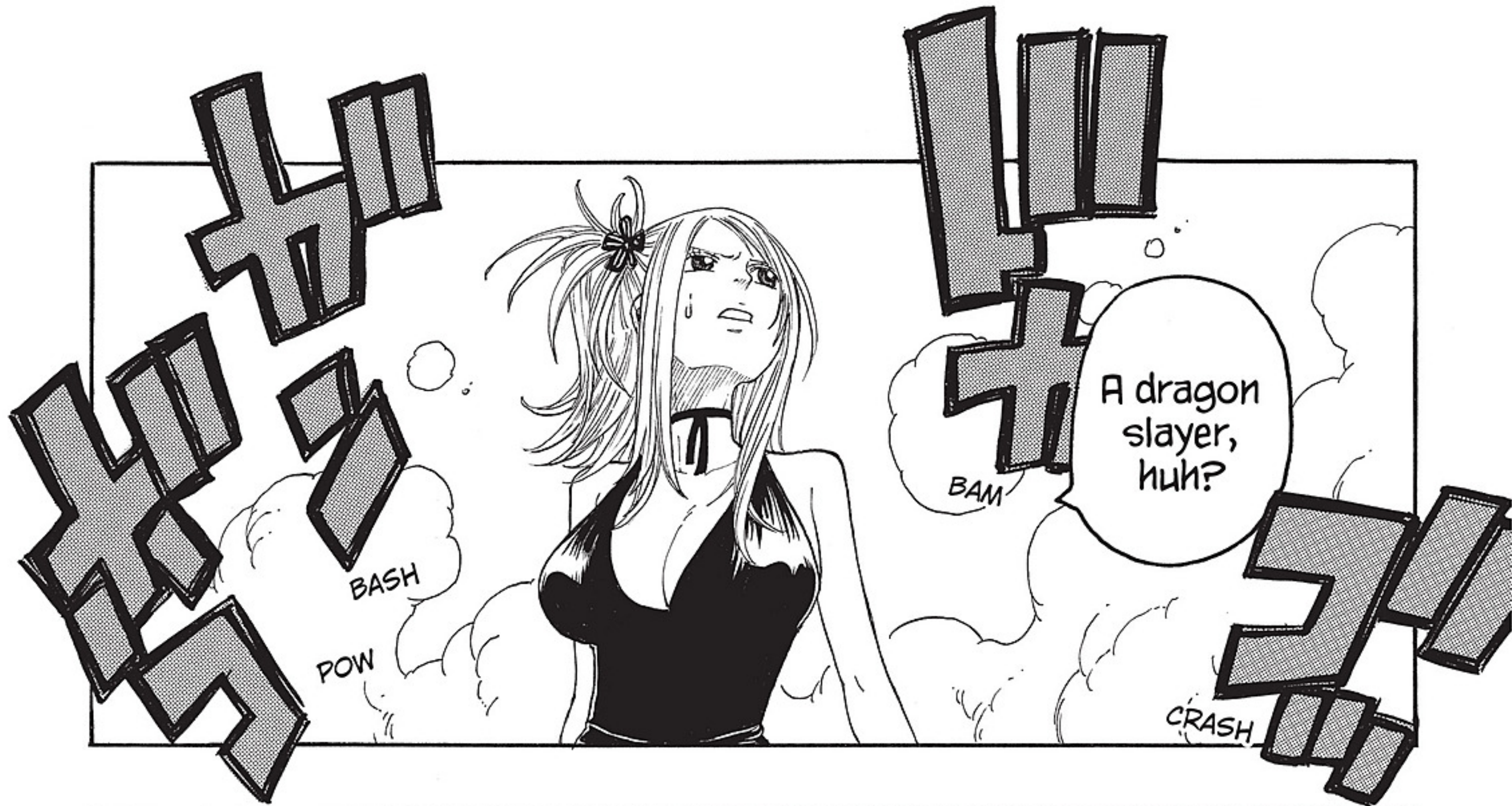
A dragon's lungs
exhale fire. A dragon's
scales dissolve fire.
A dragon's claws are
enveloped in fire.



TWIK











He's
getting
too
carried
away!!!!



Owie...



Is "Aye"
all you
have to
say?!!

Aye.



FWOOOO

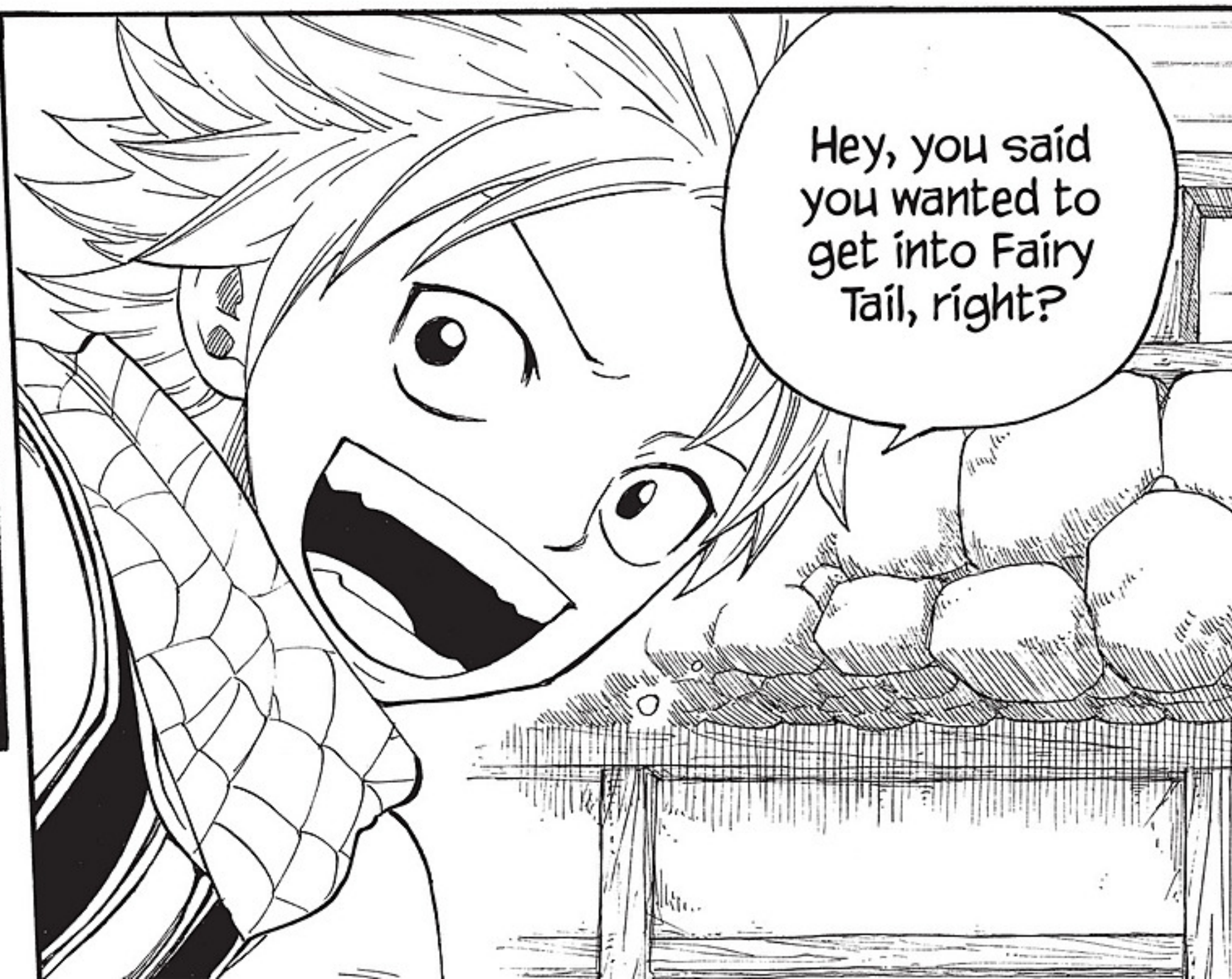
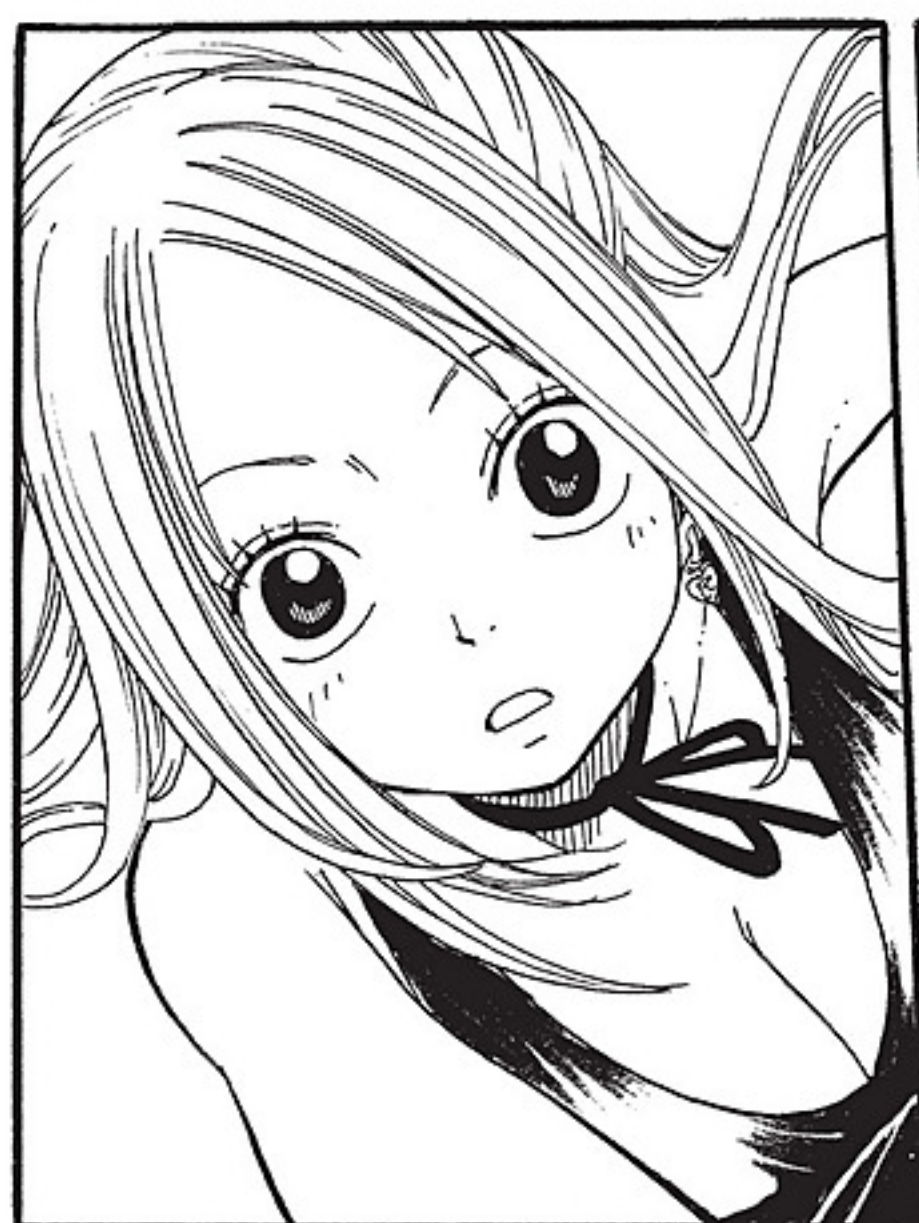
Th-The whole
harbor's a
wreck!!!

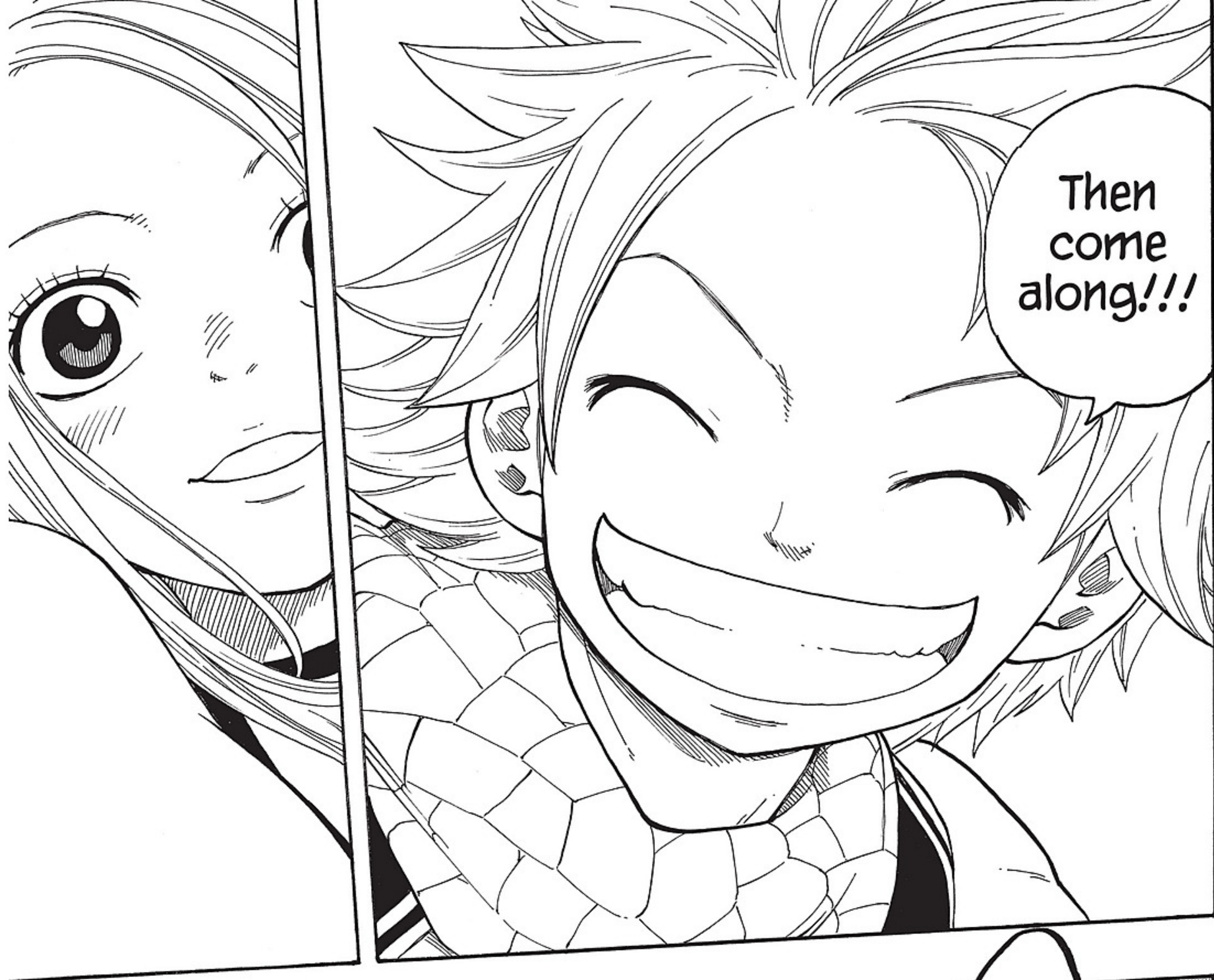


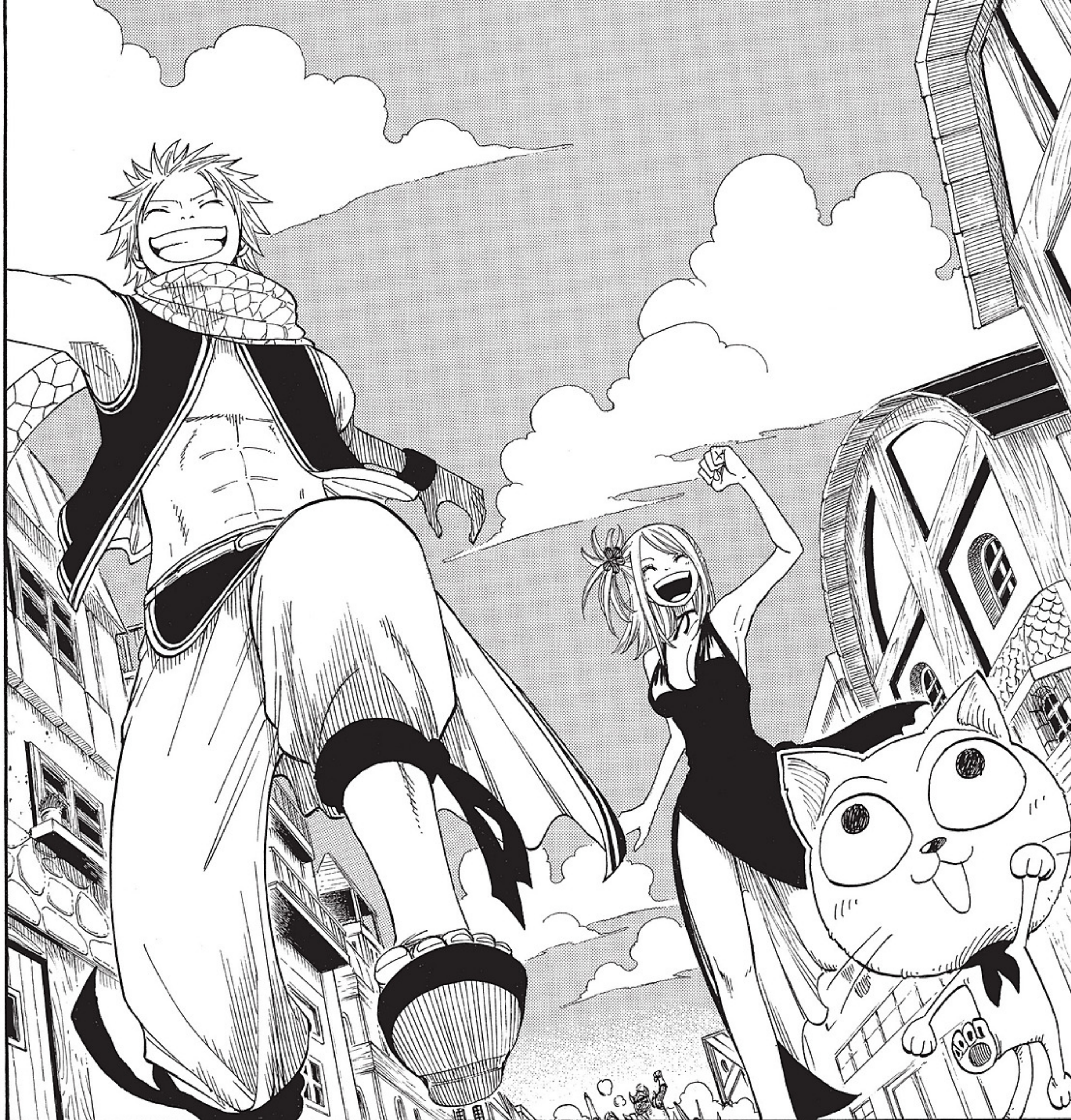
A-All
right!!
What's
all this,
then?!!

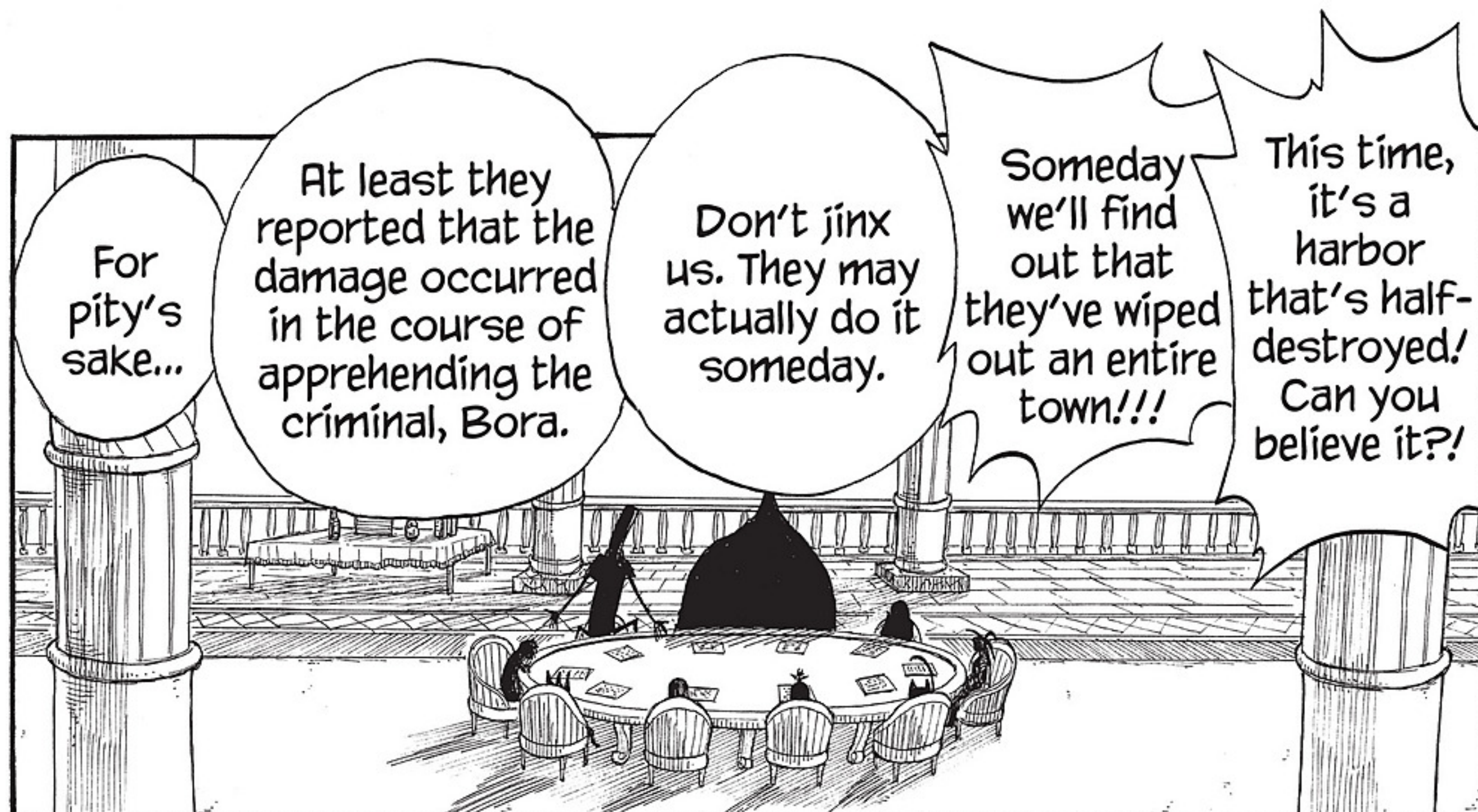
It's the
army!!!







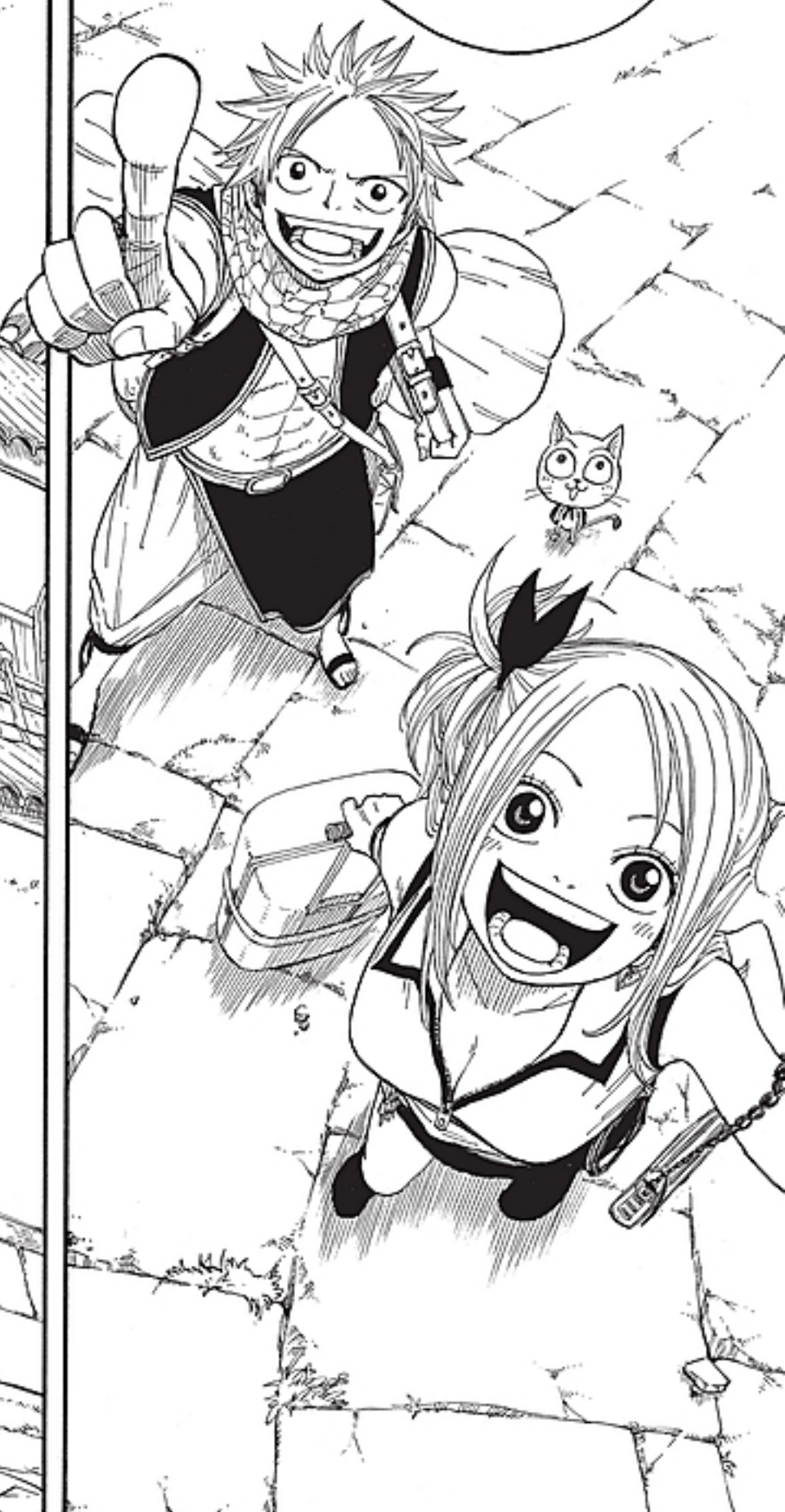


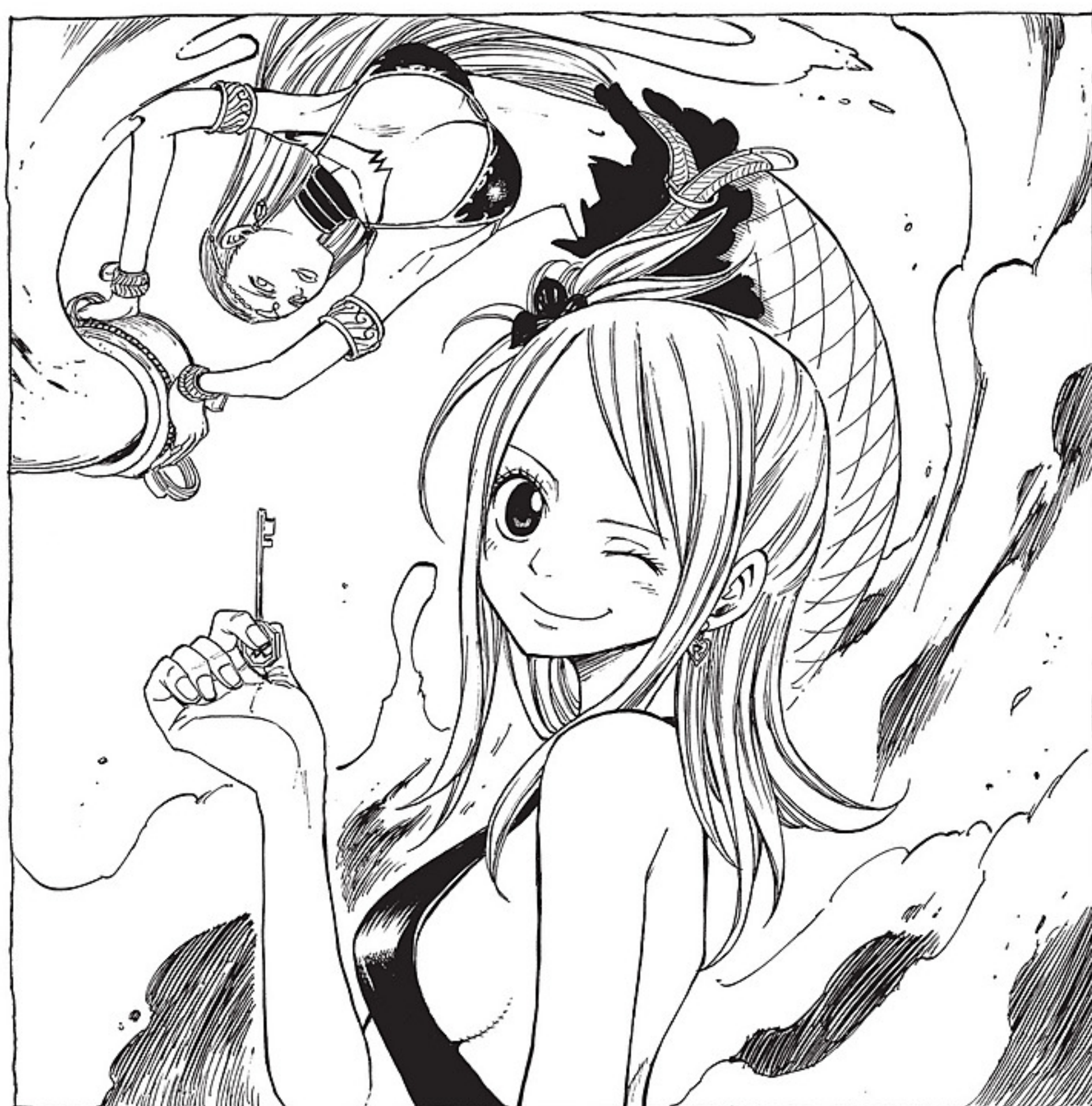


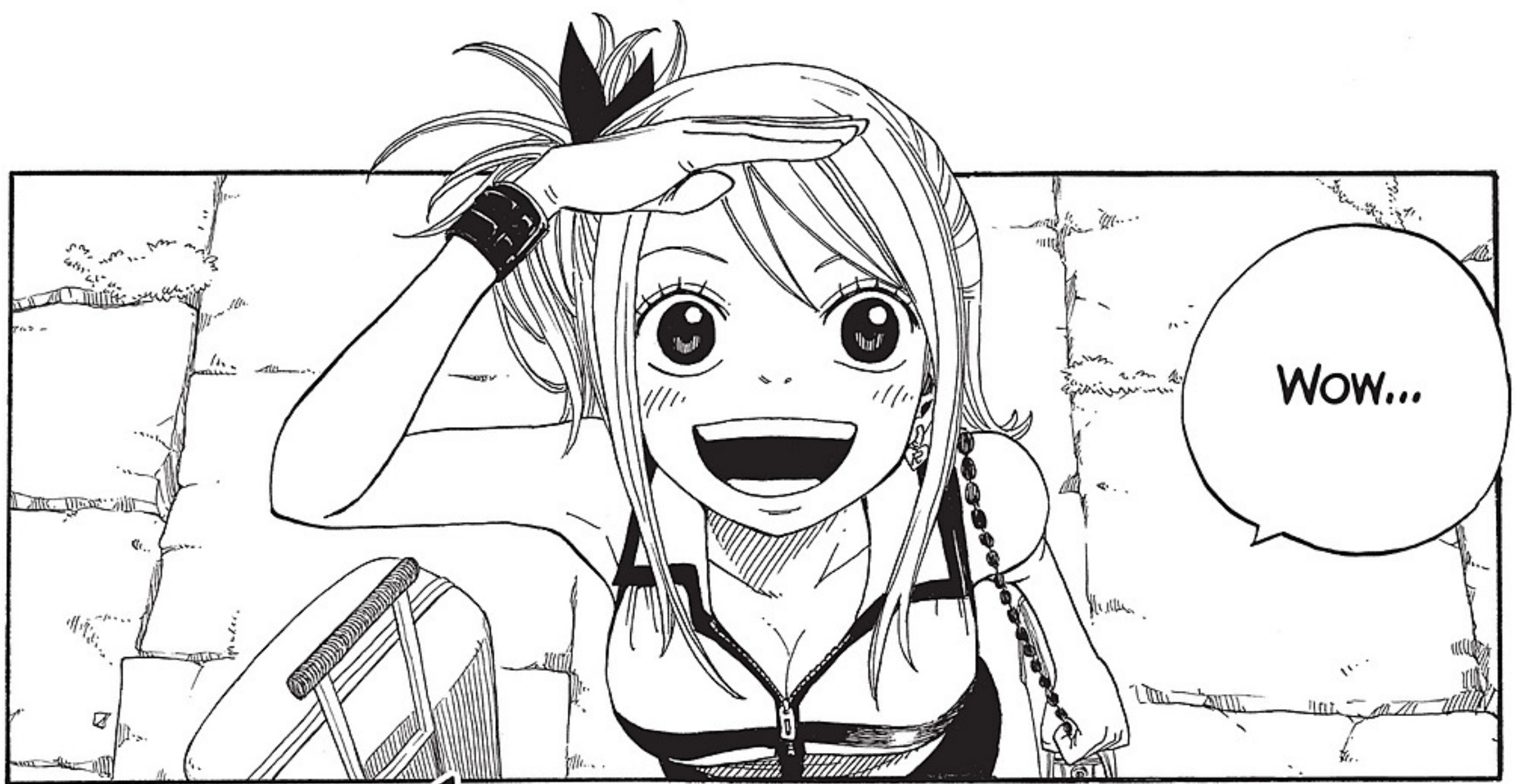


...this world
would be
completely
boring.

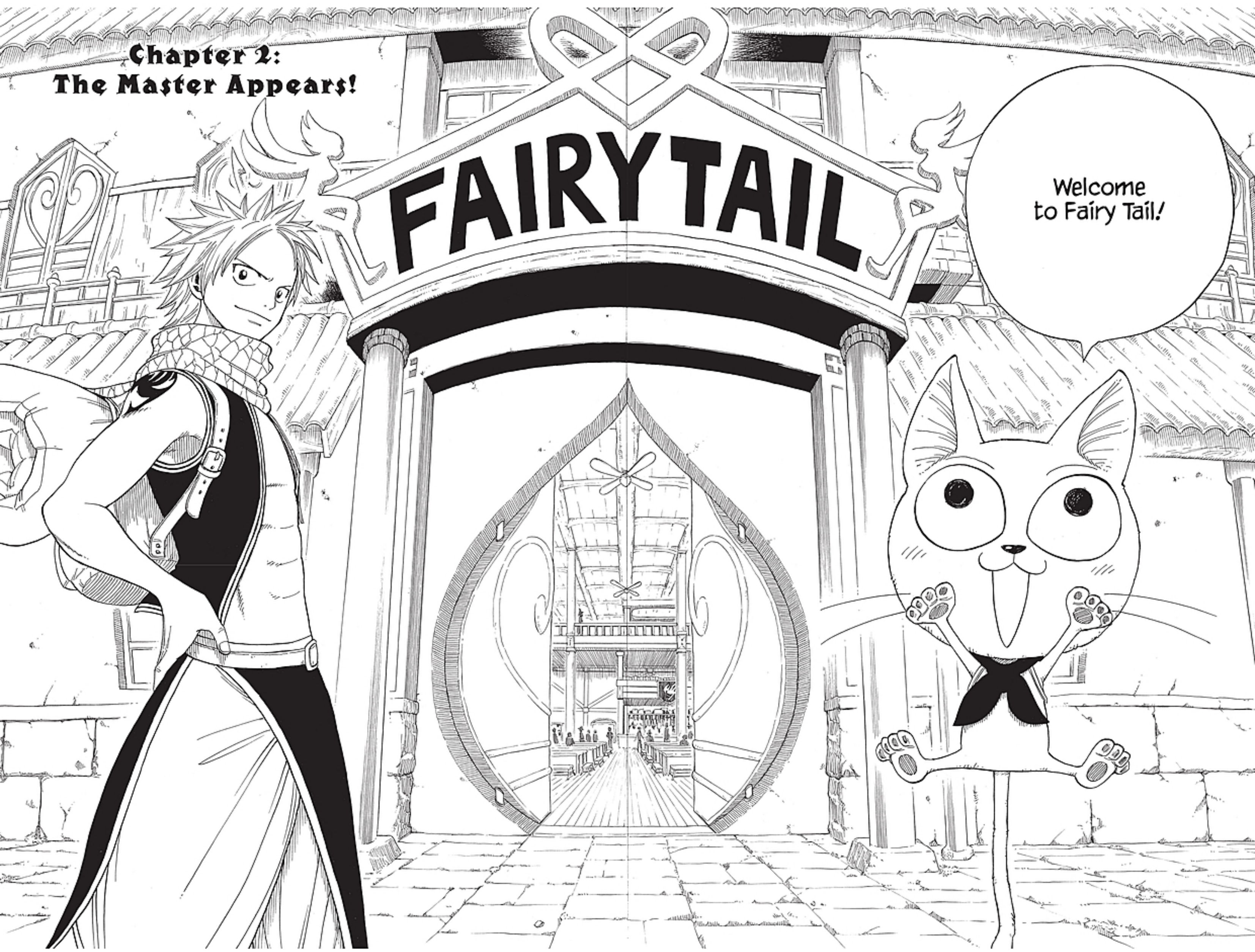
Without
those
particular
idiots...

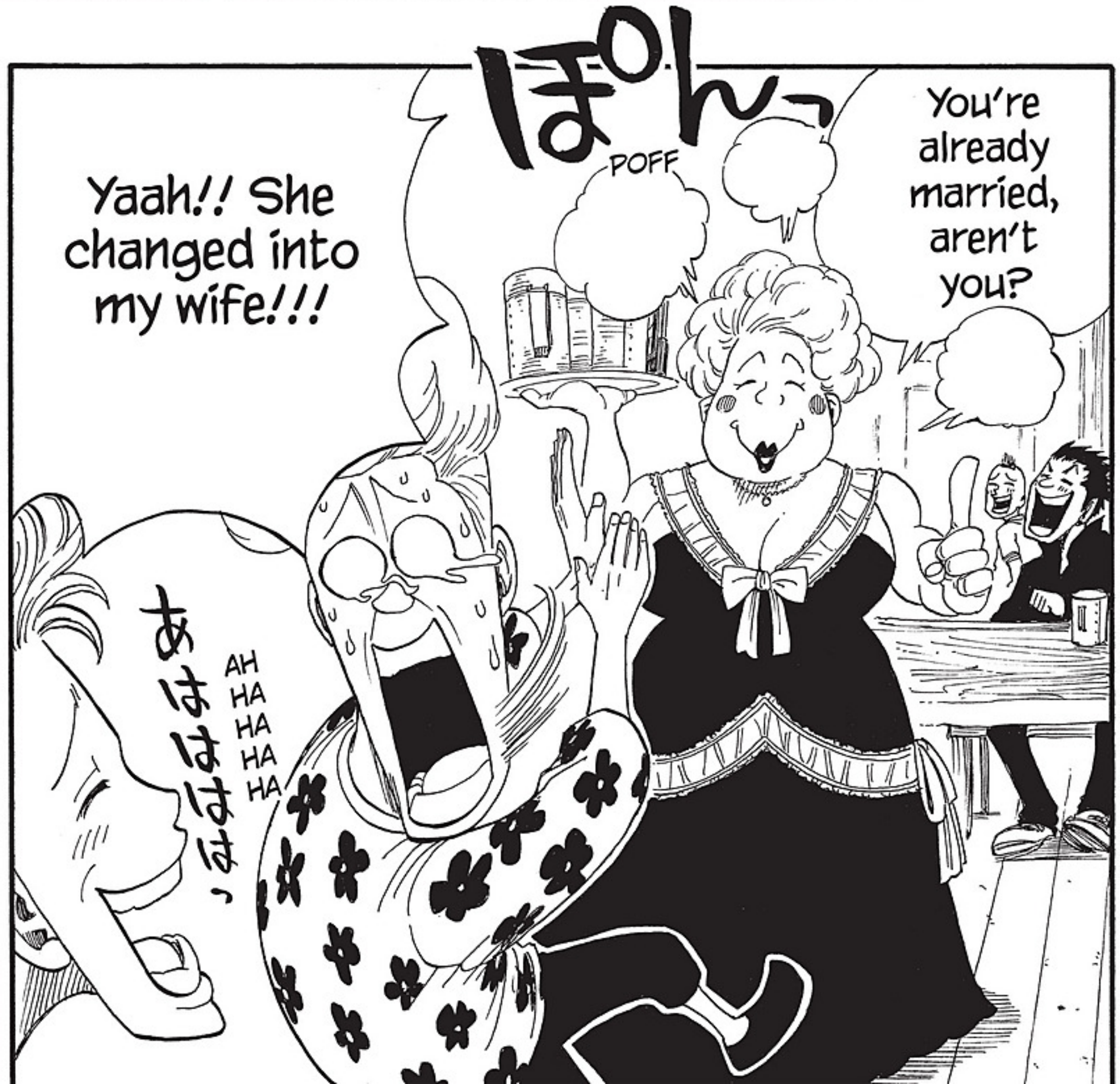
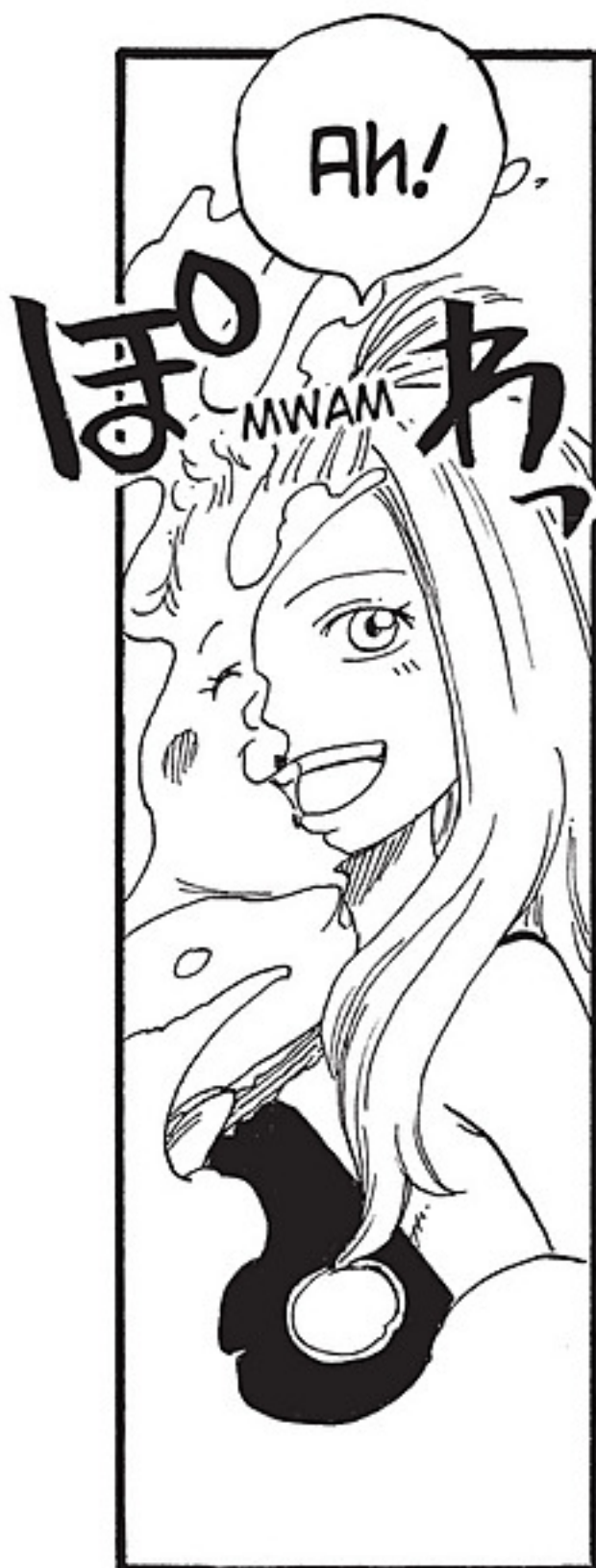
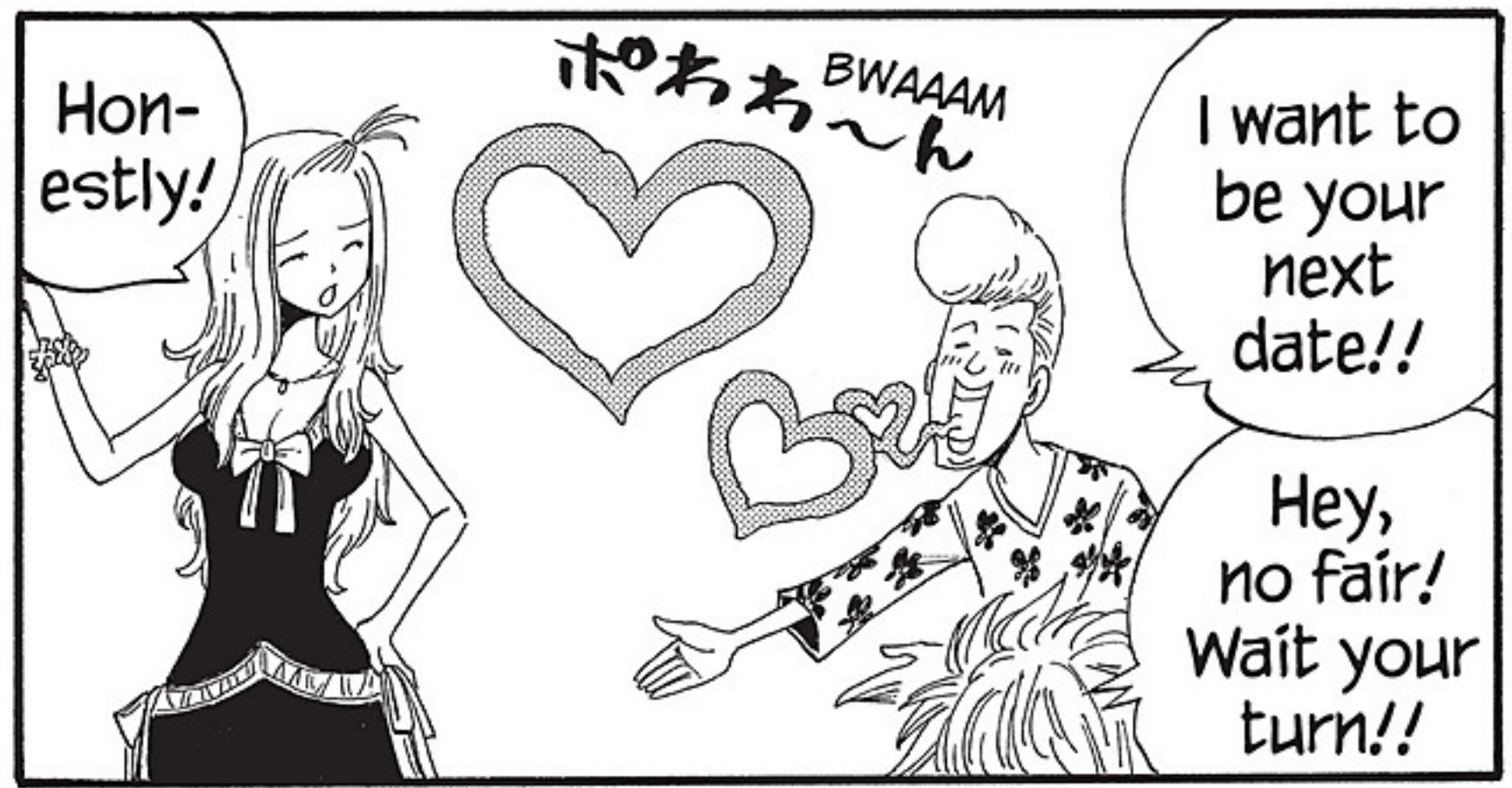
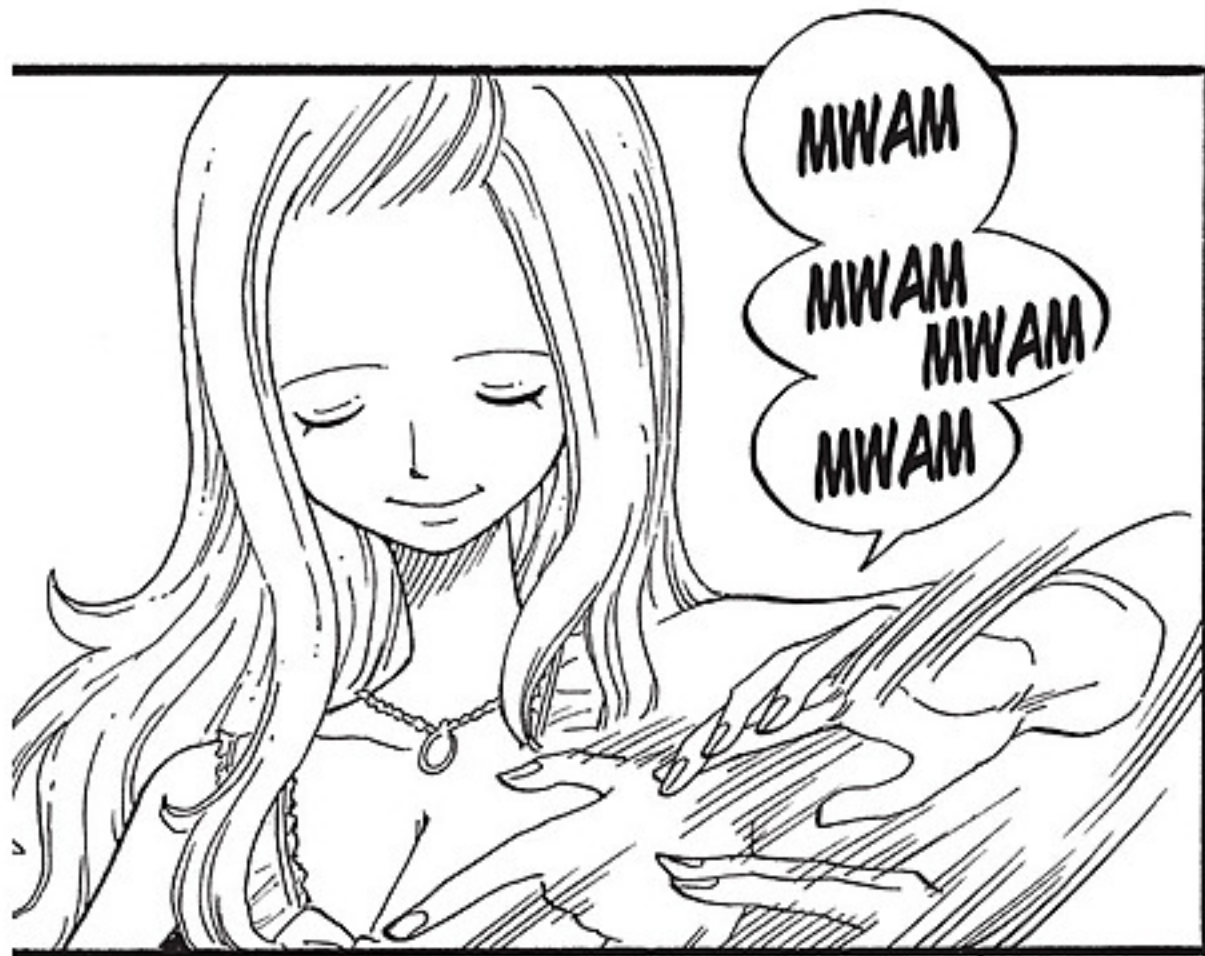
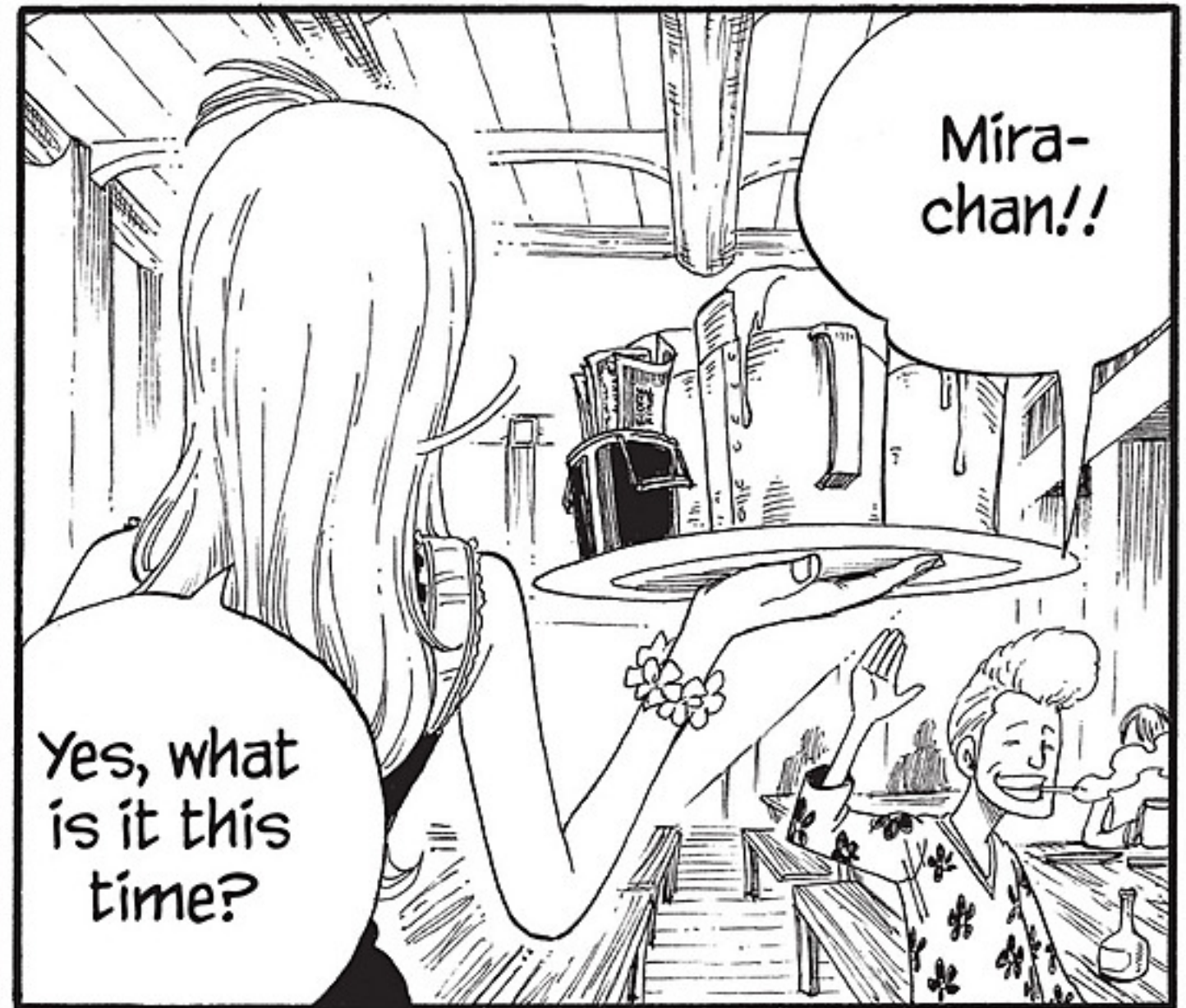
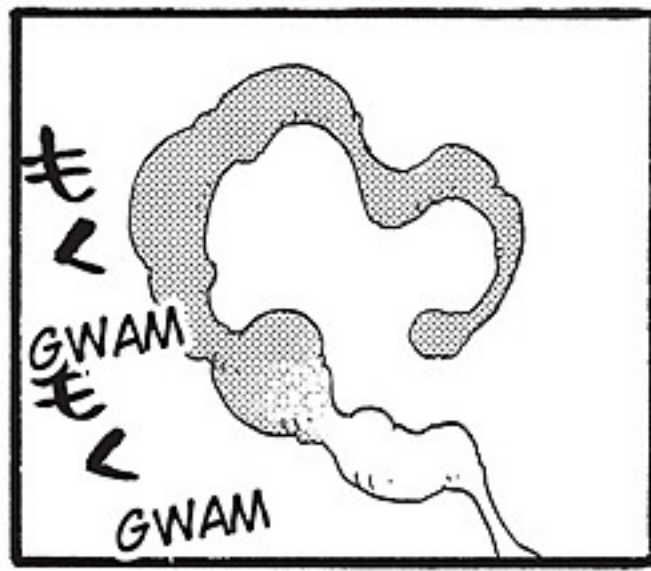






Chapter 2:
The Master Appears!





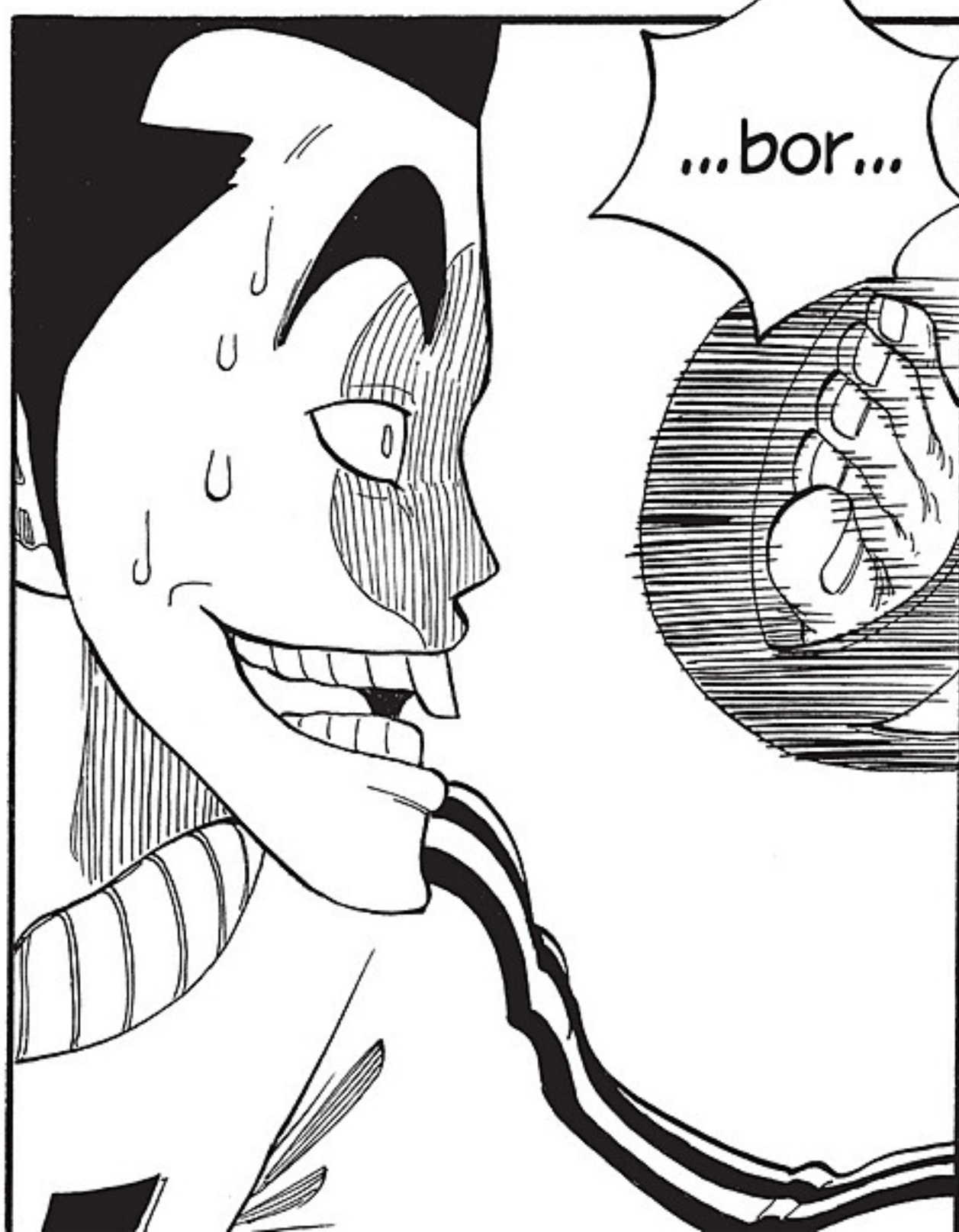


カ
ッ

GWAAA

I'm
back!!!!

We're
back—

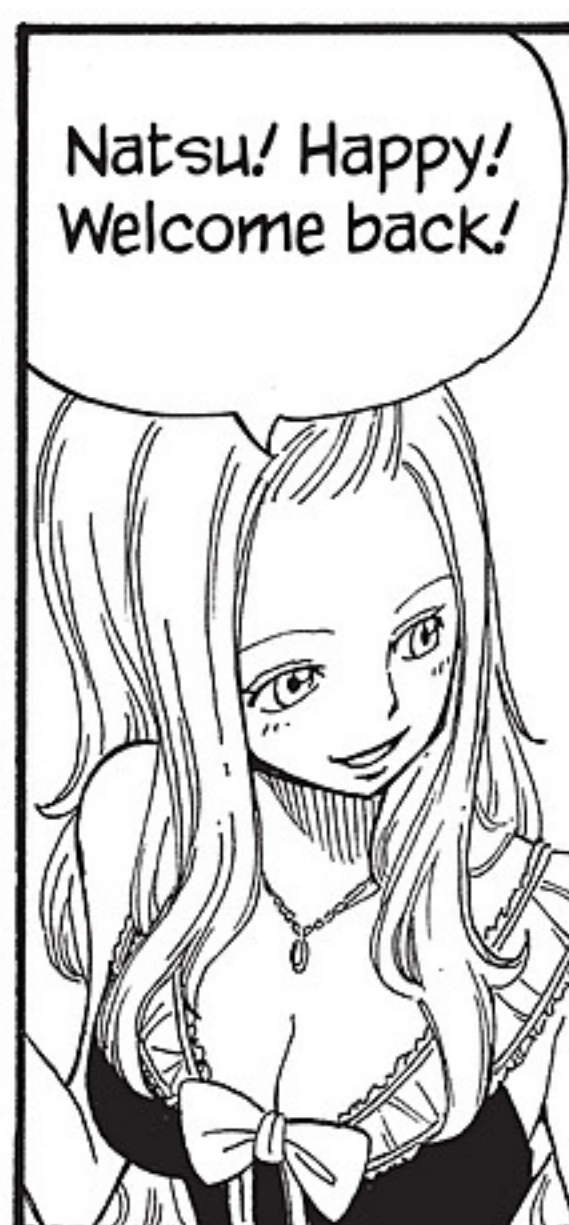


...bor...



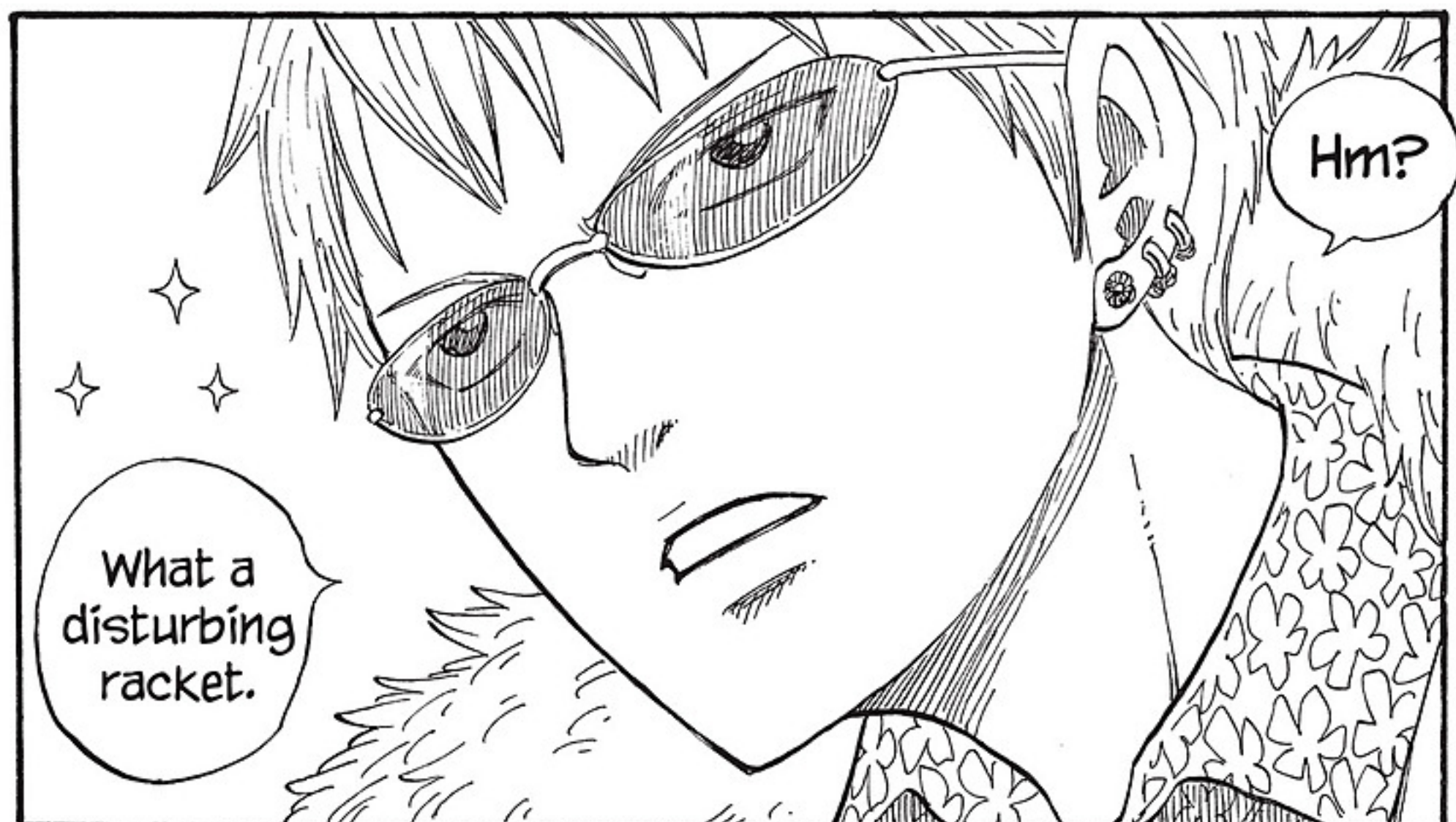
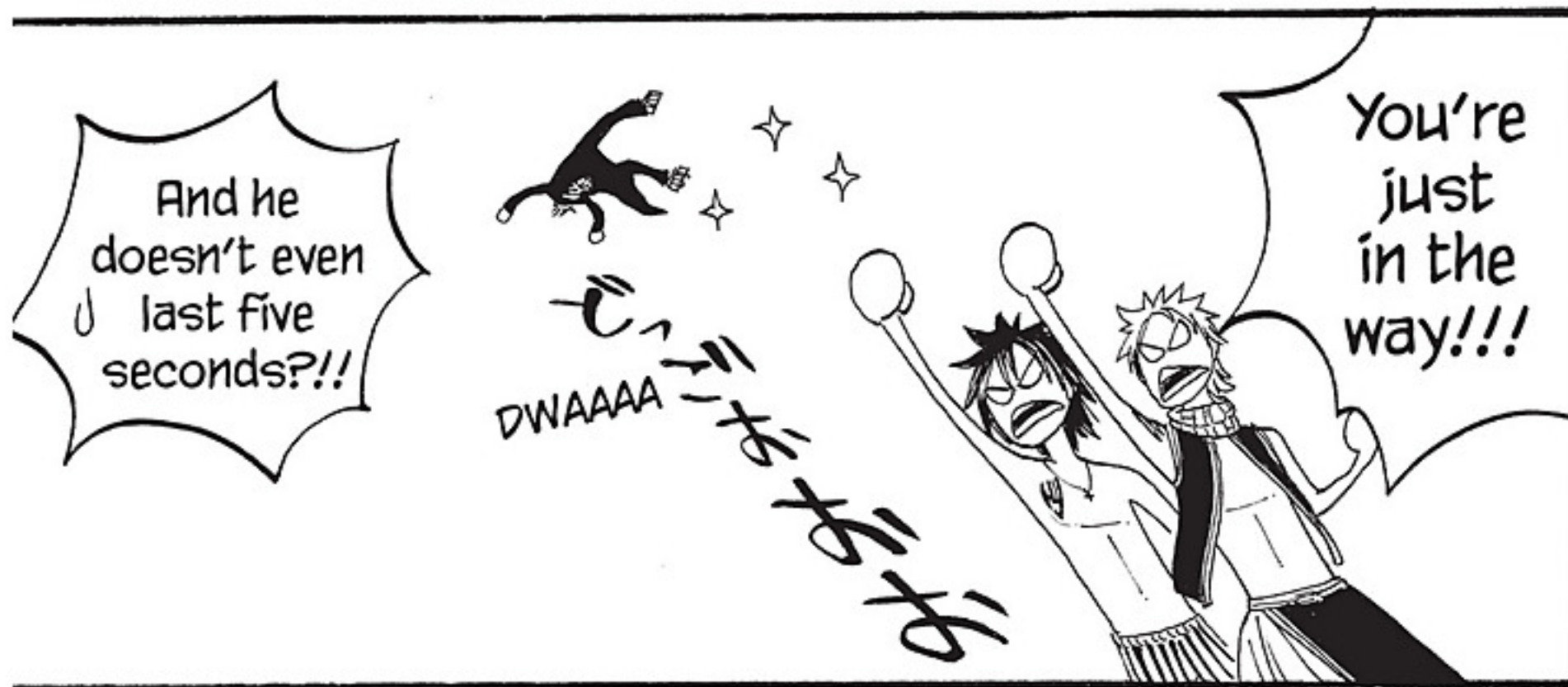
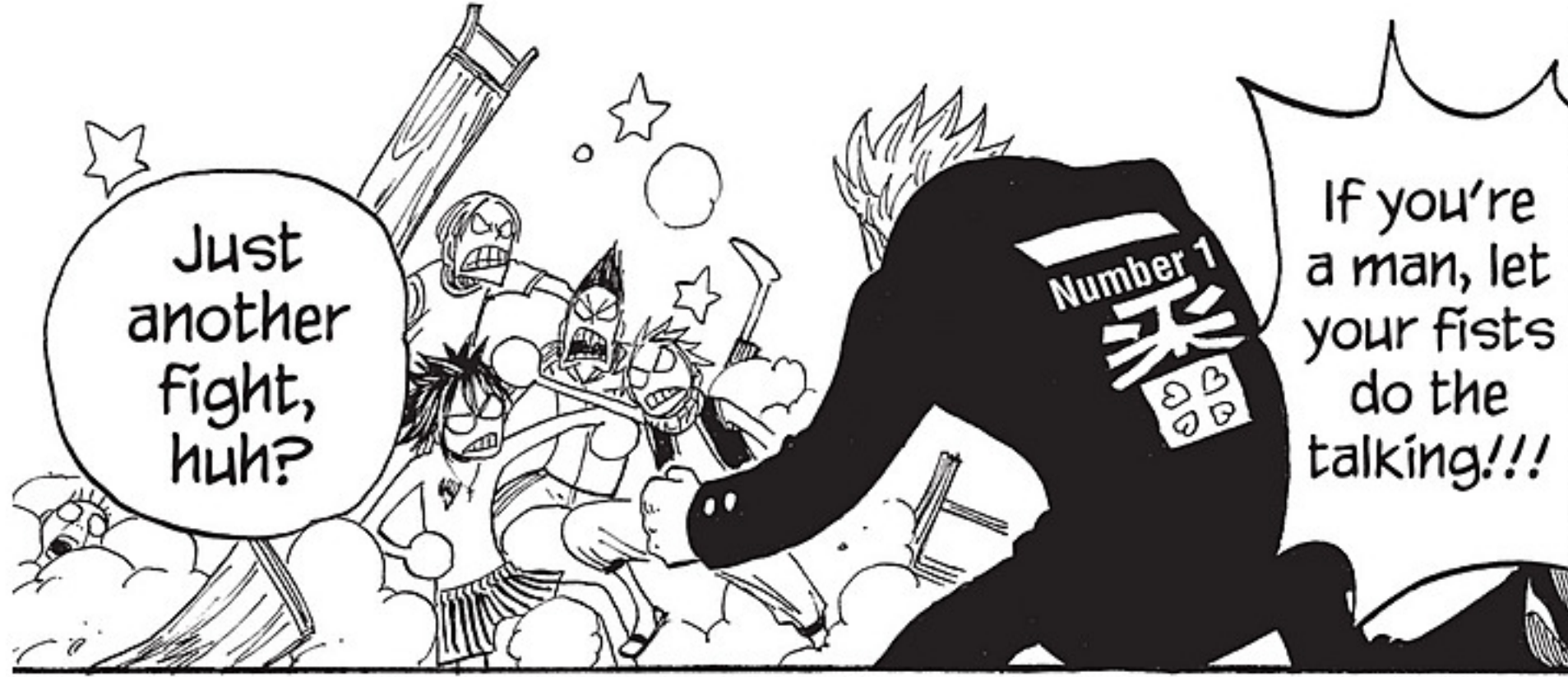
はっはっは!!
HAHAHA!!

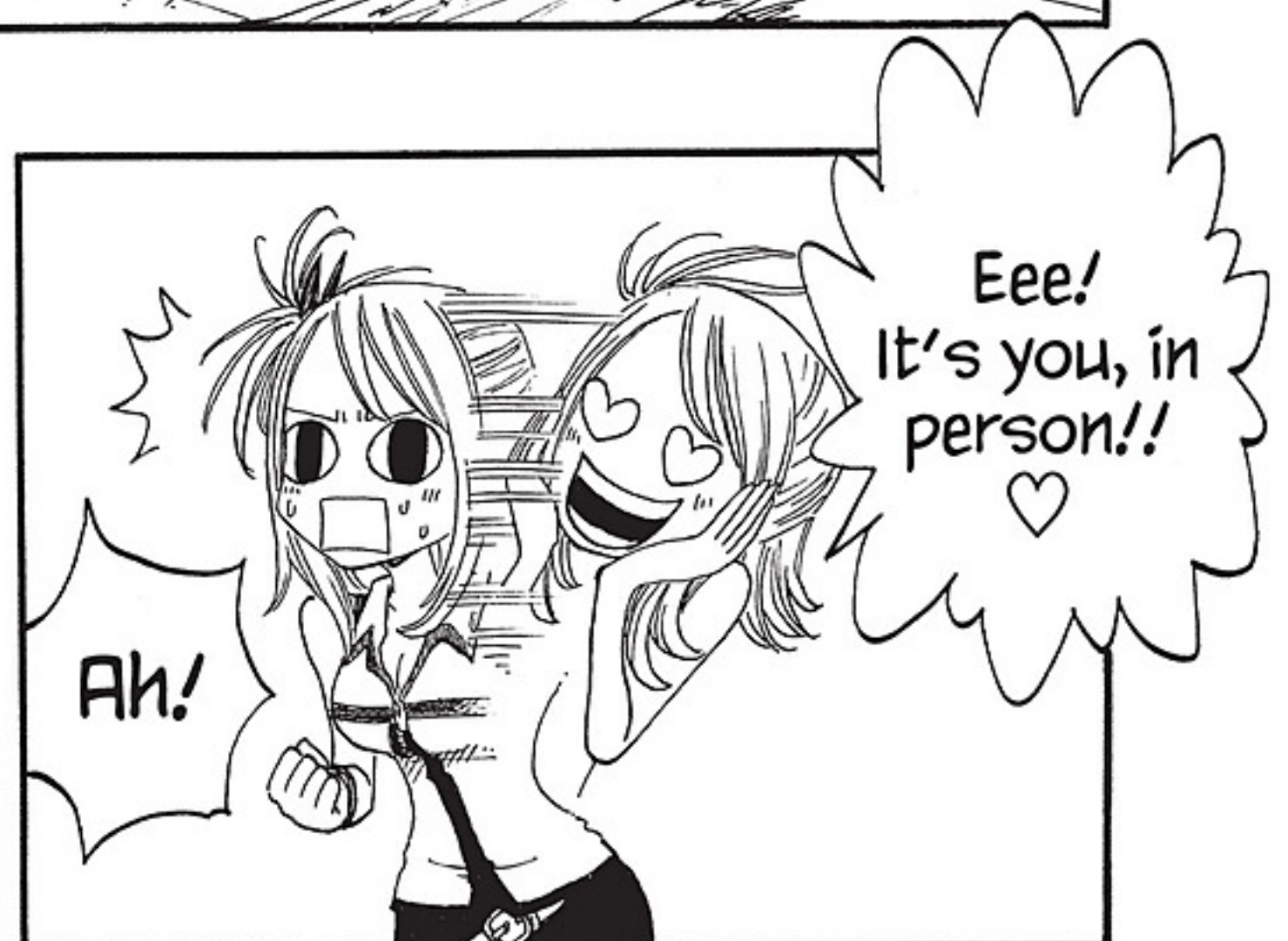
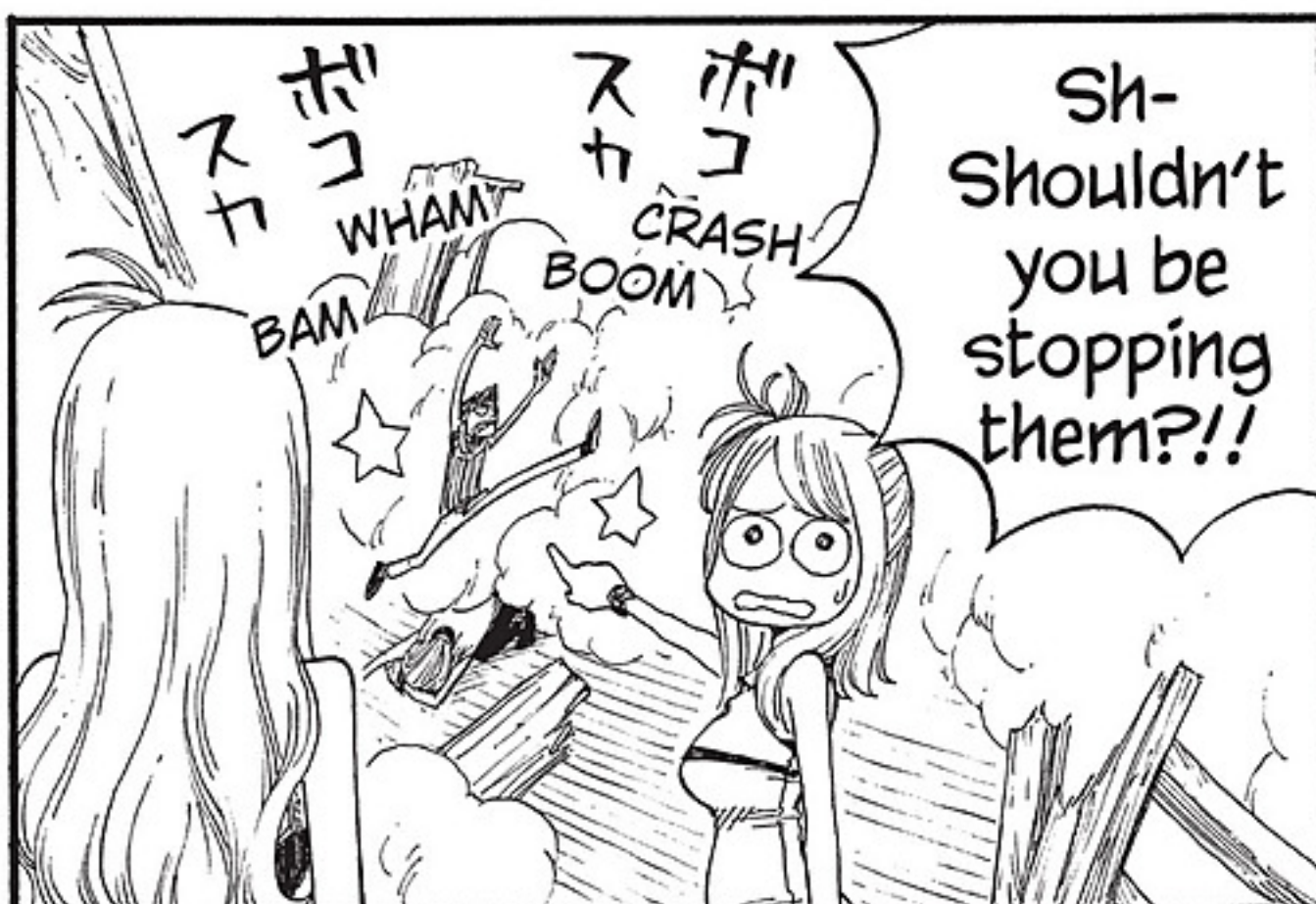
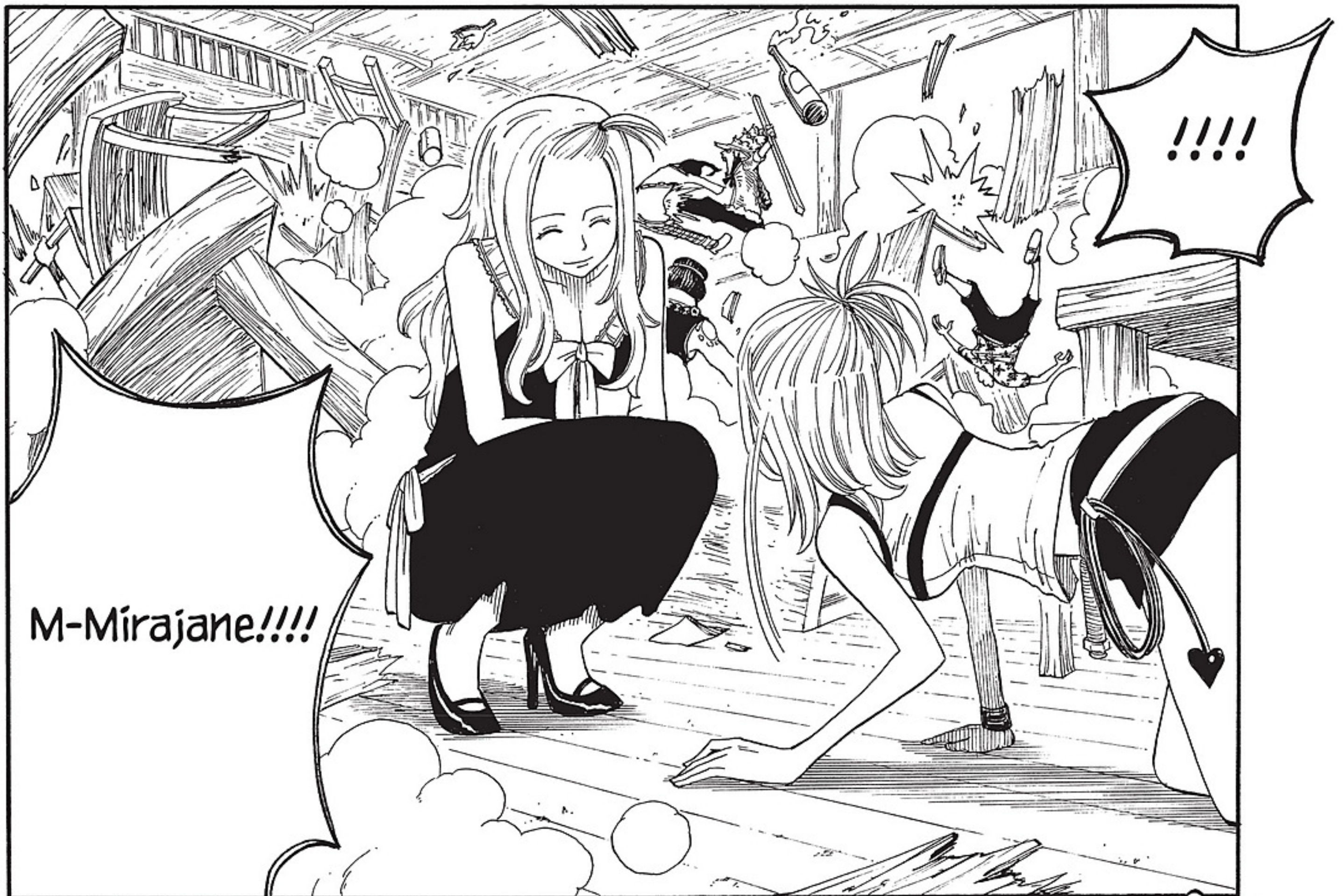
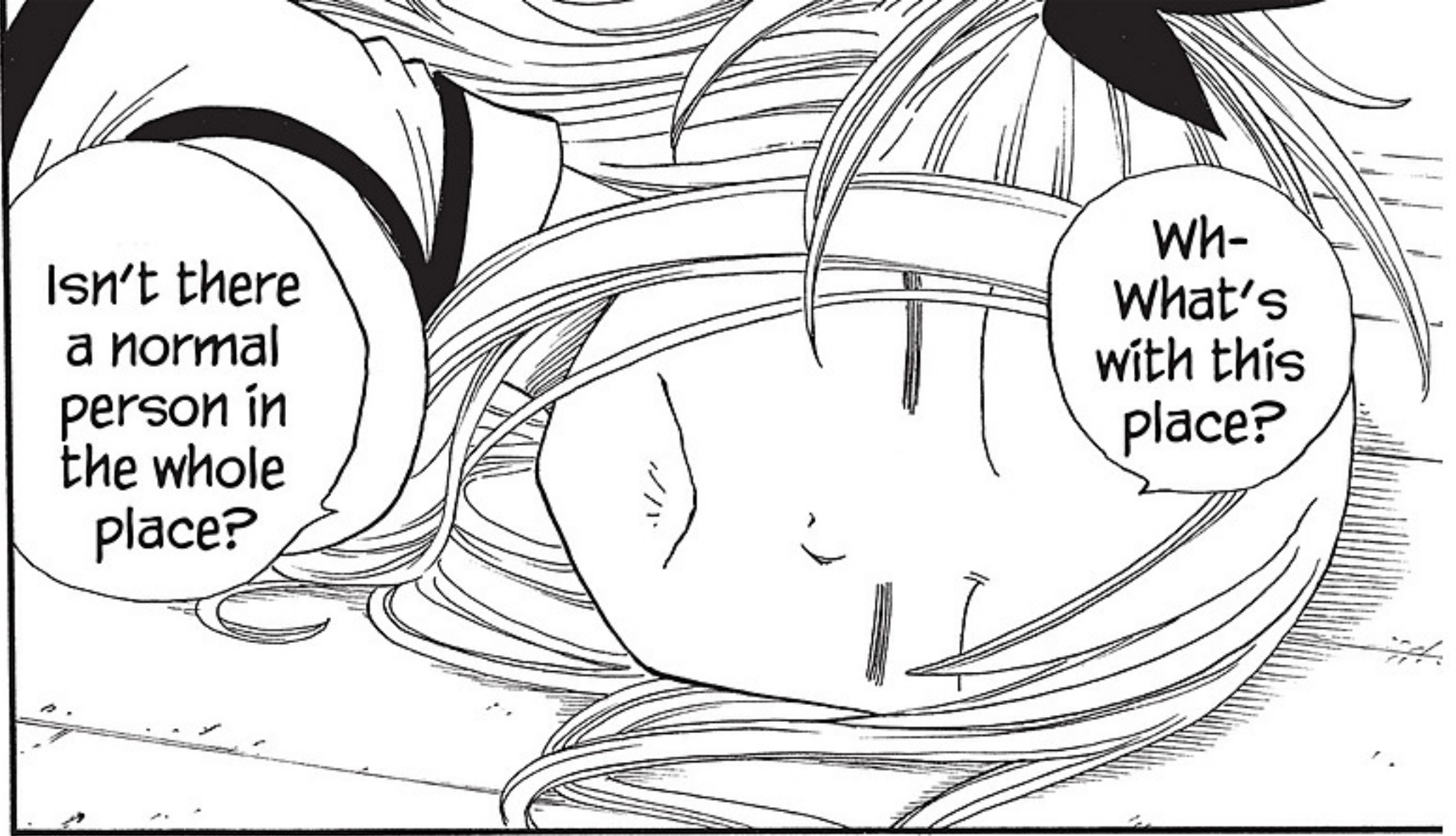
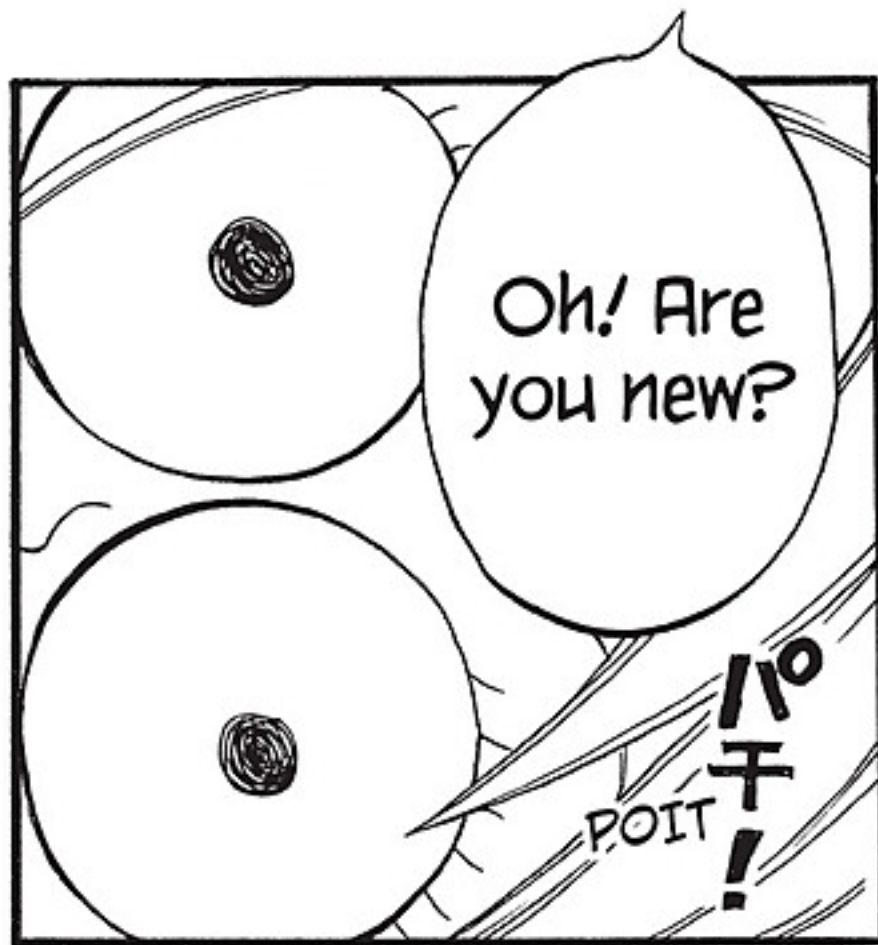
You really went
overboard again!
We read in the
paper that you
destroyed half of
Hargeon's har...

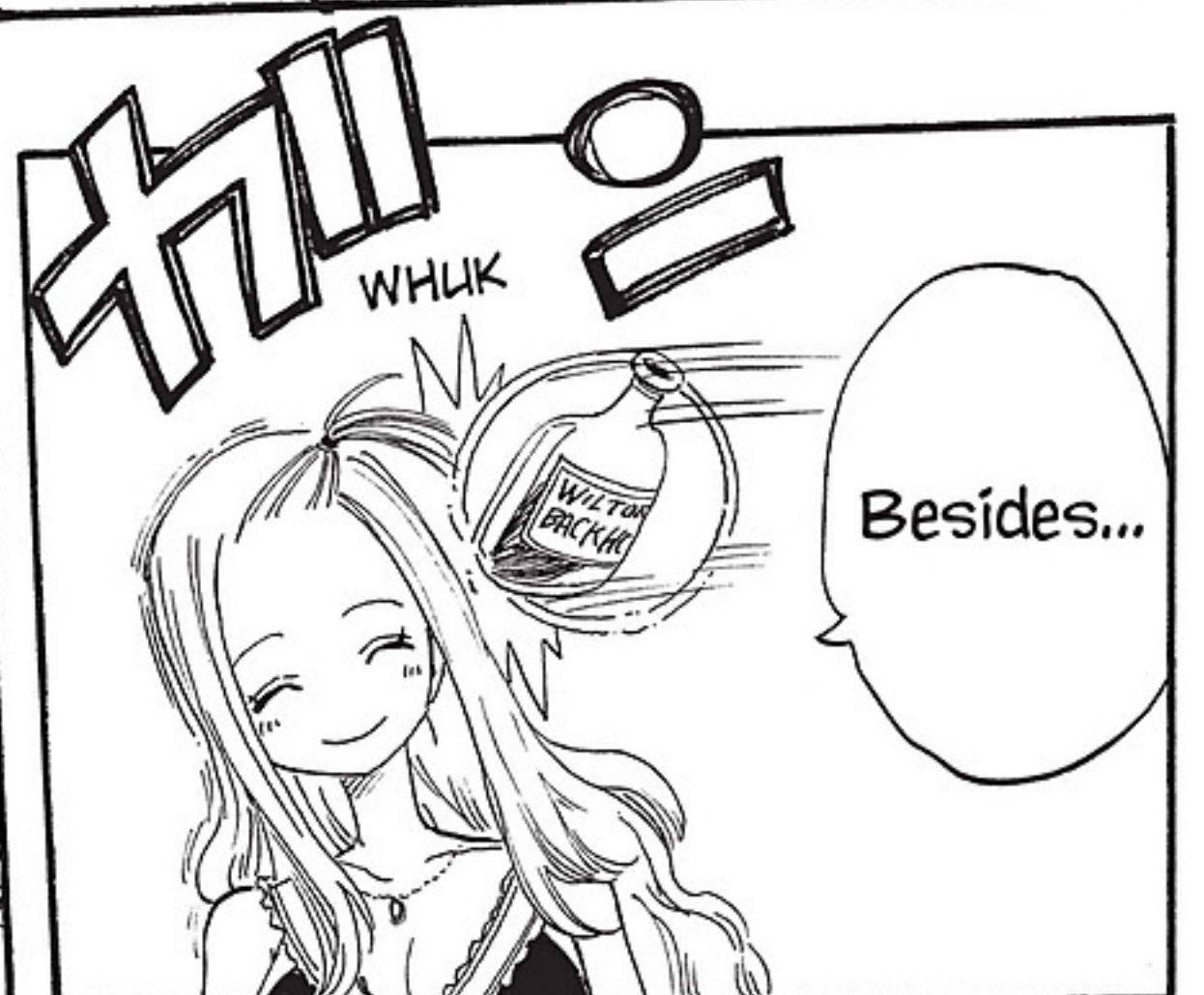


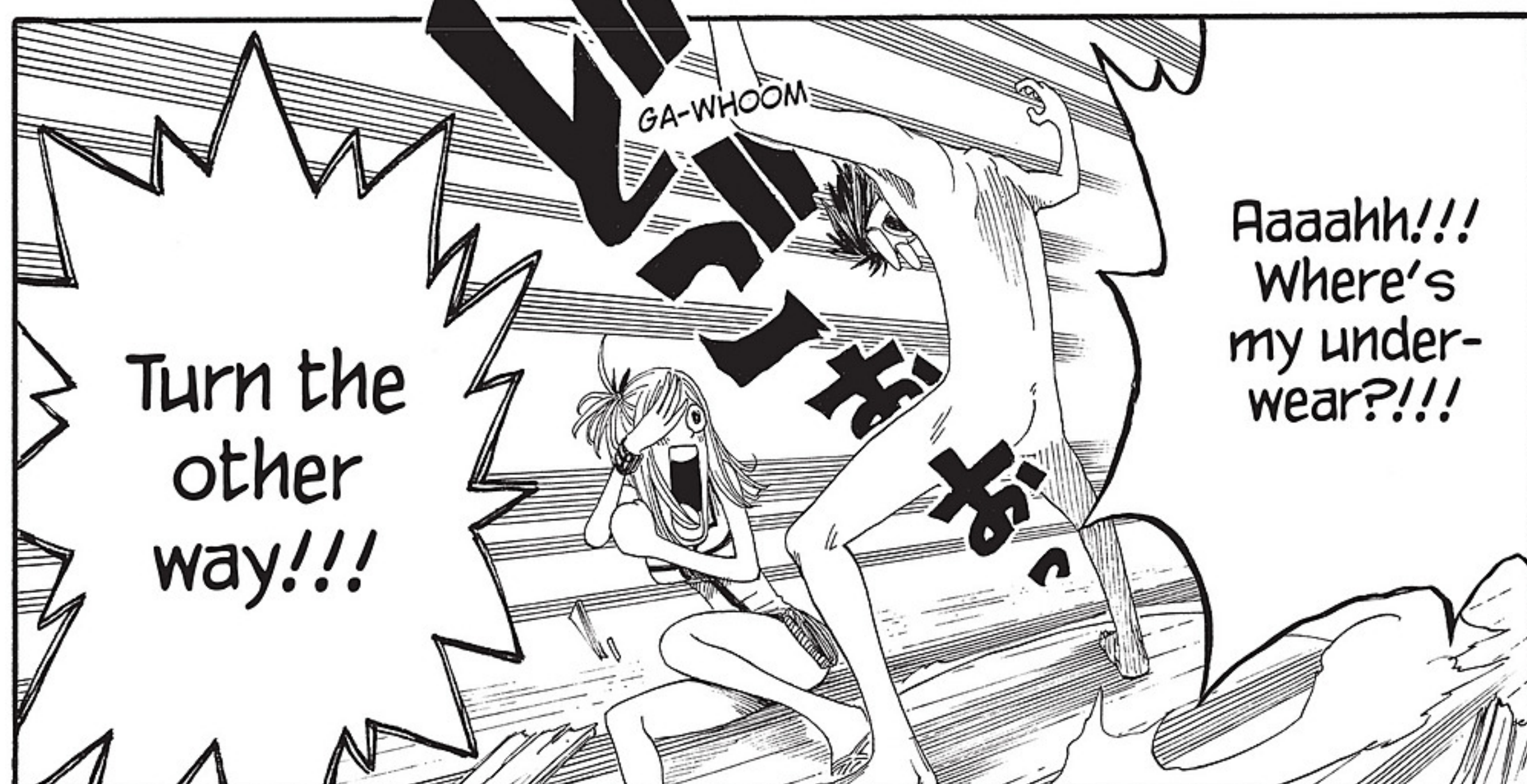
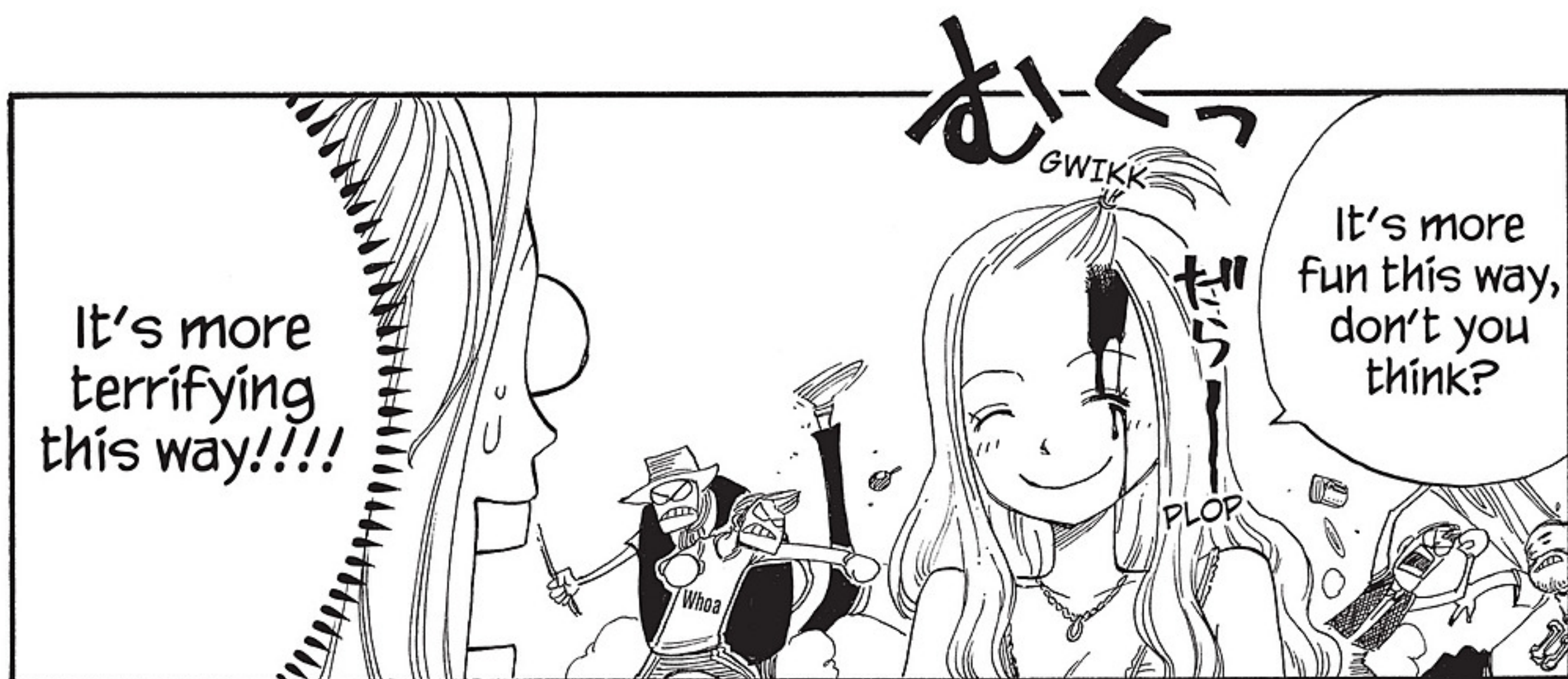
Natsu! Happy!
Welcome back!

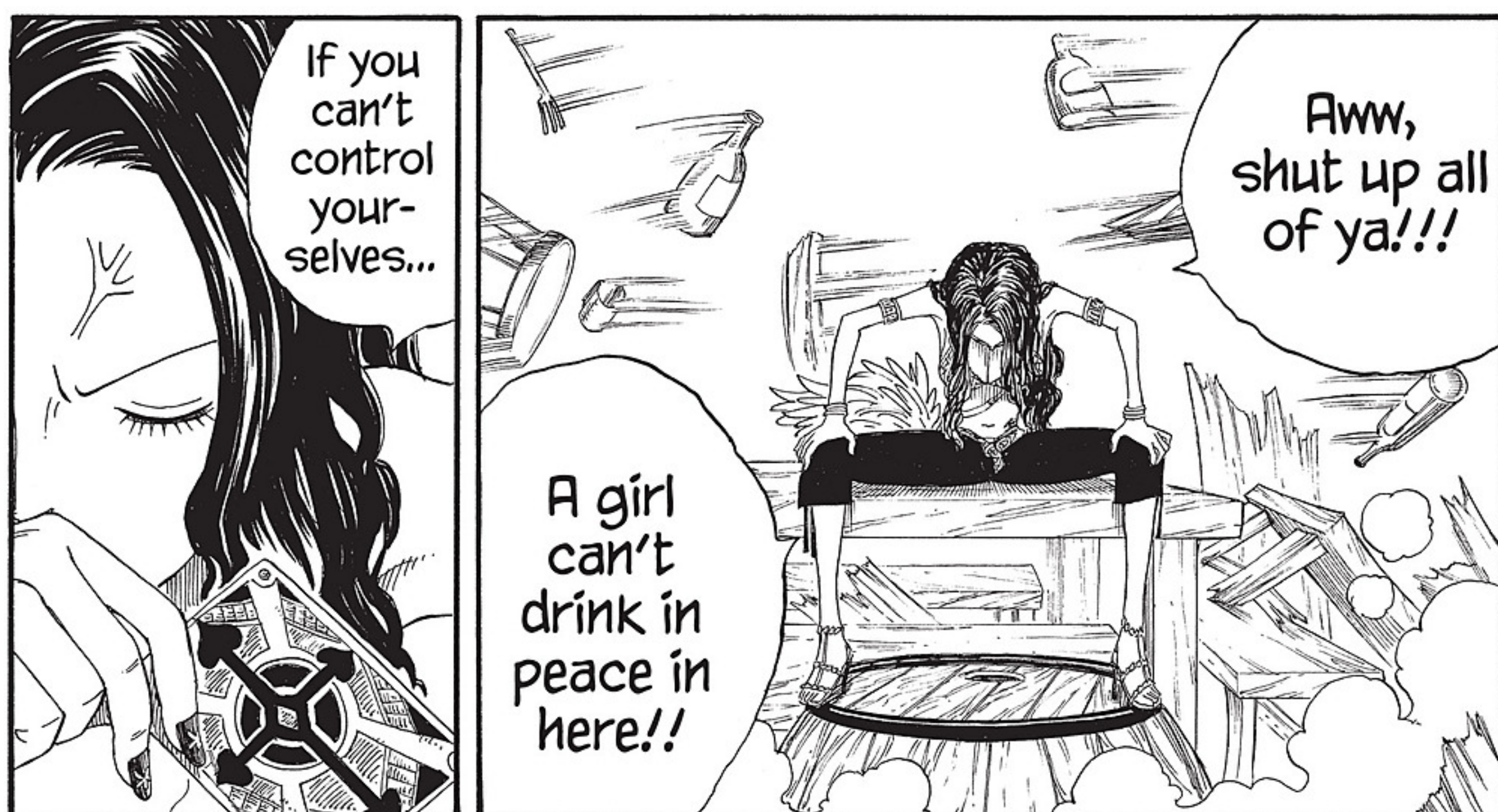
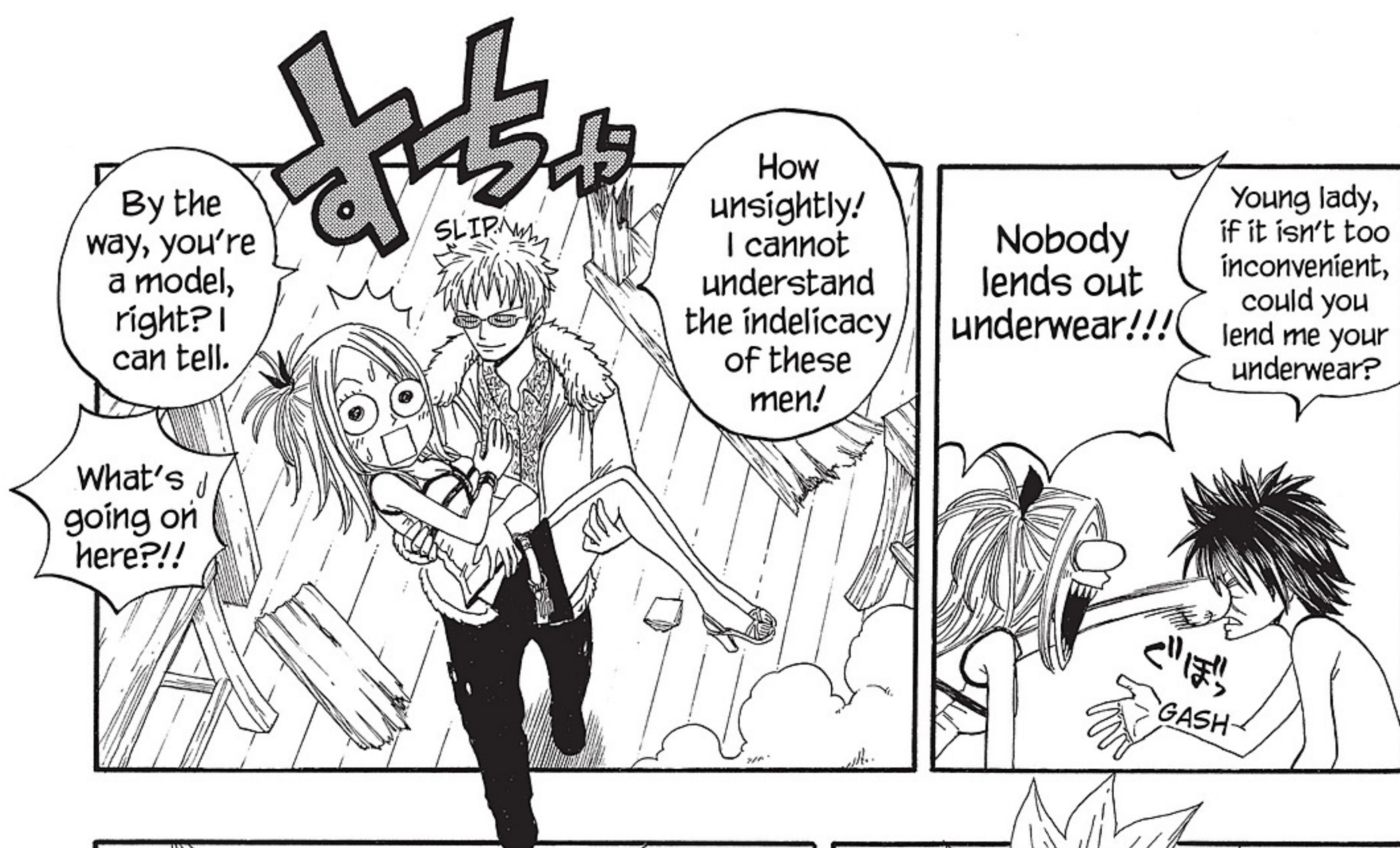


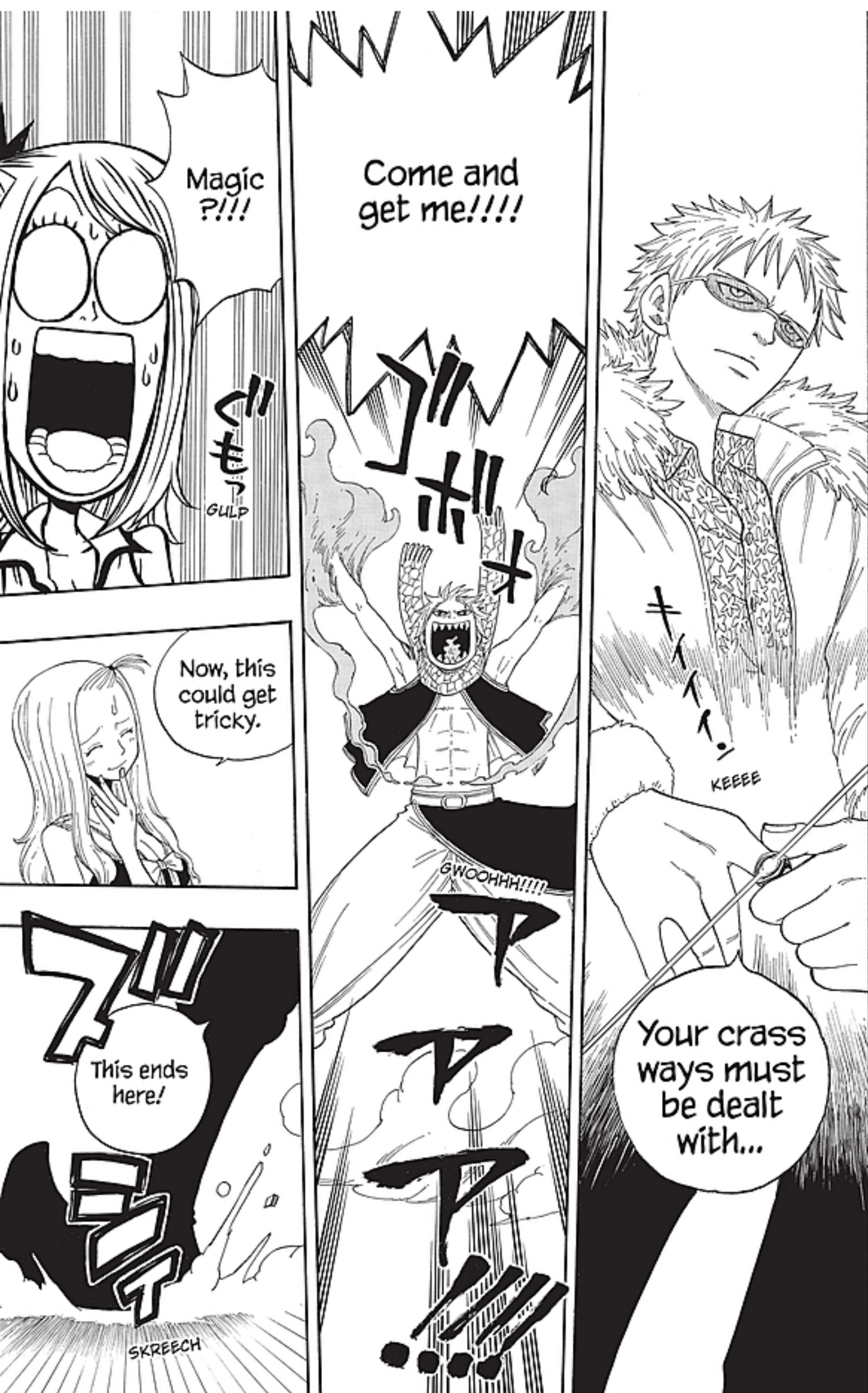






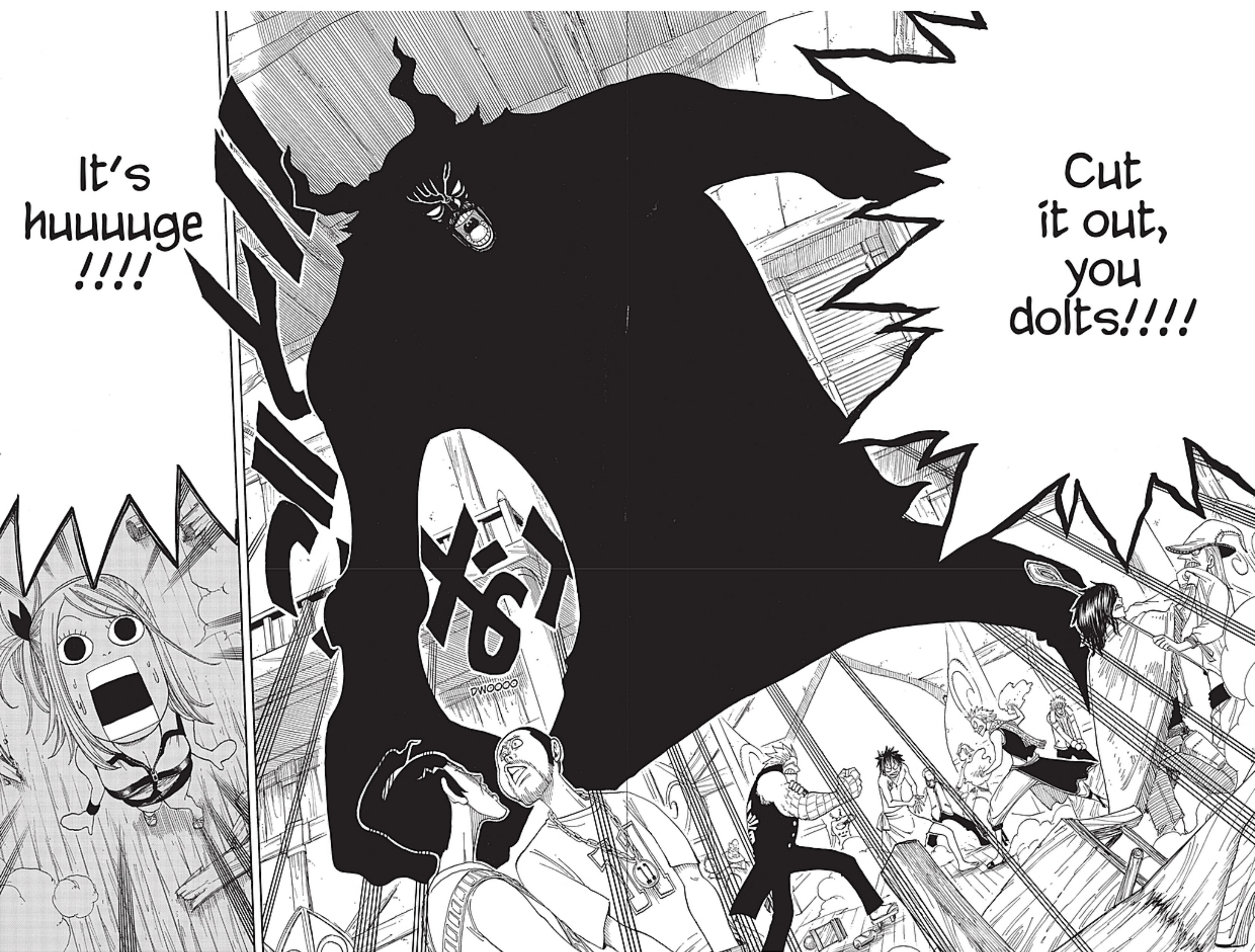


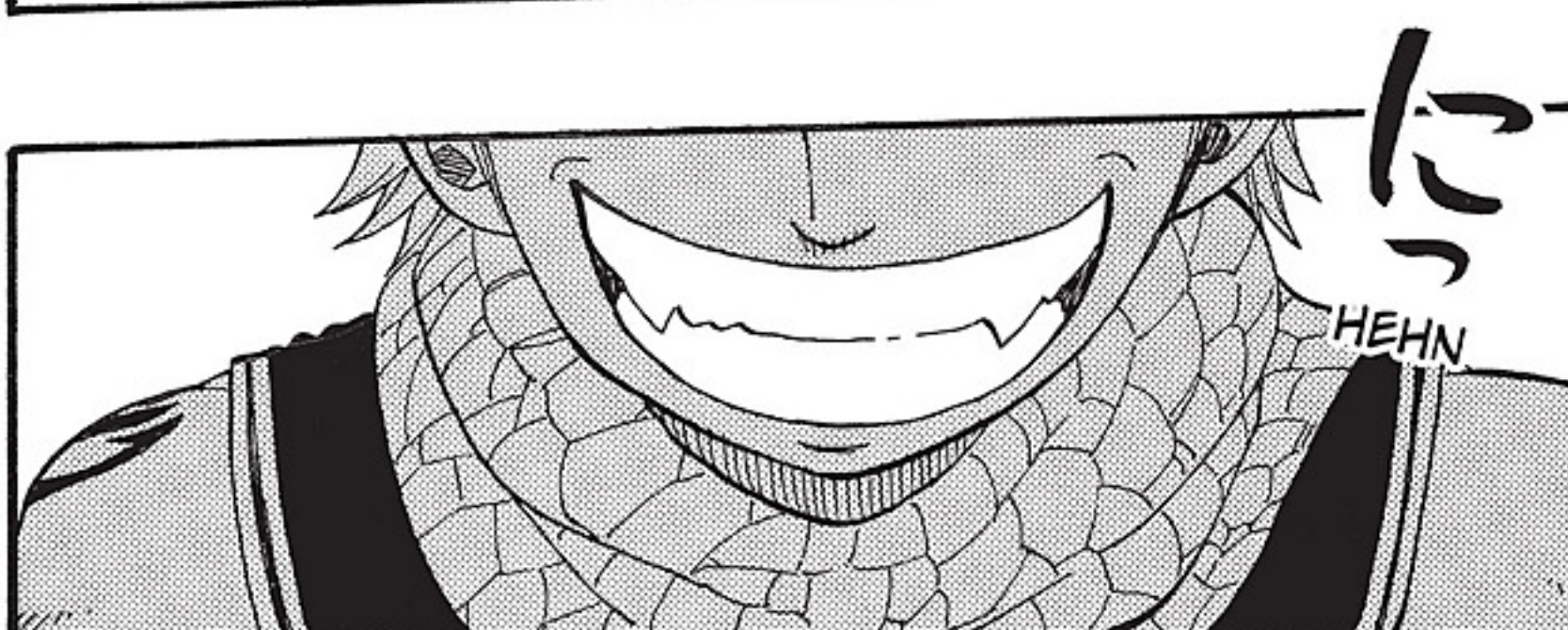
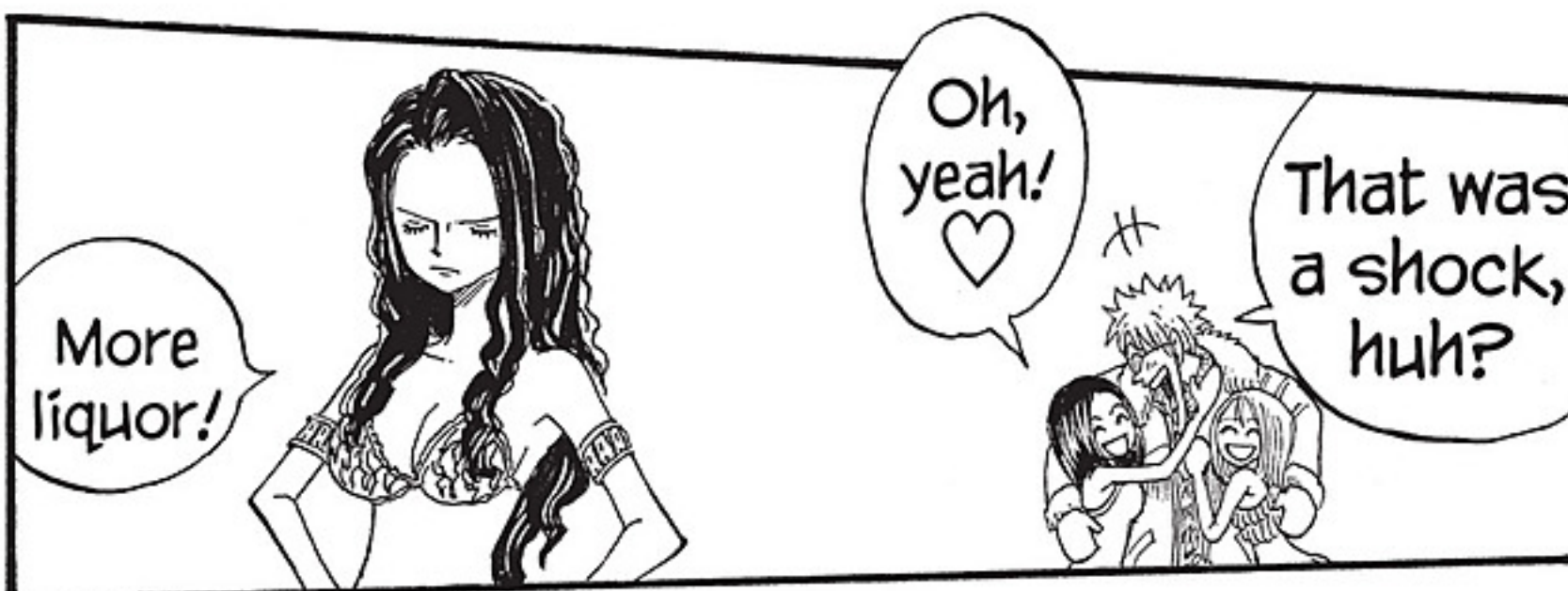
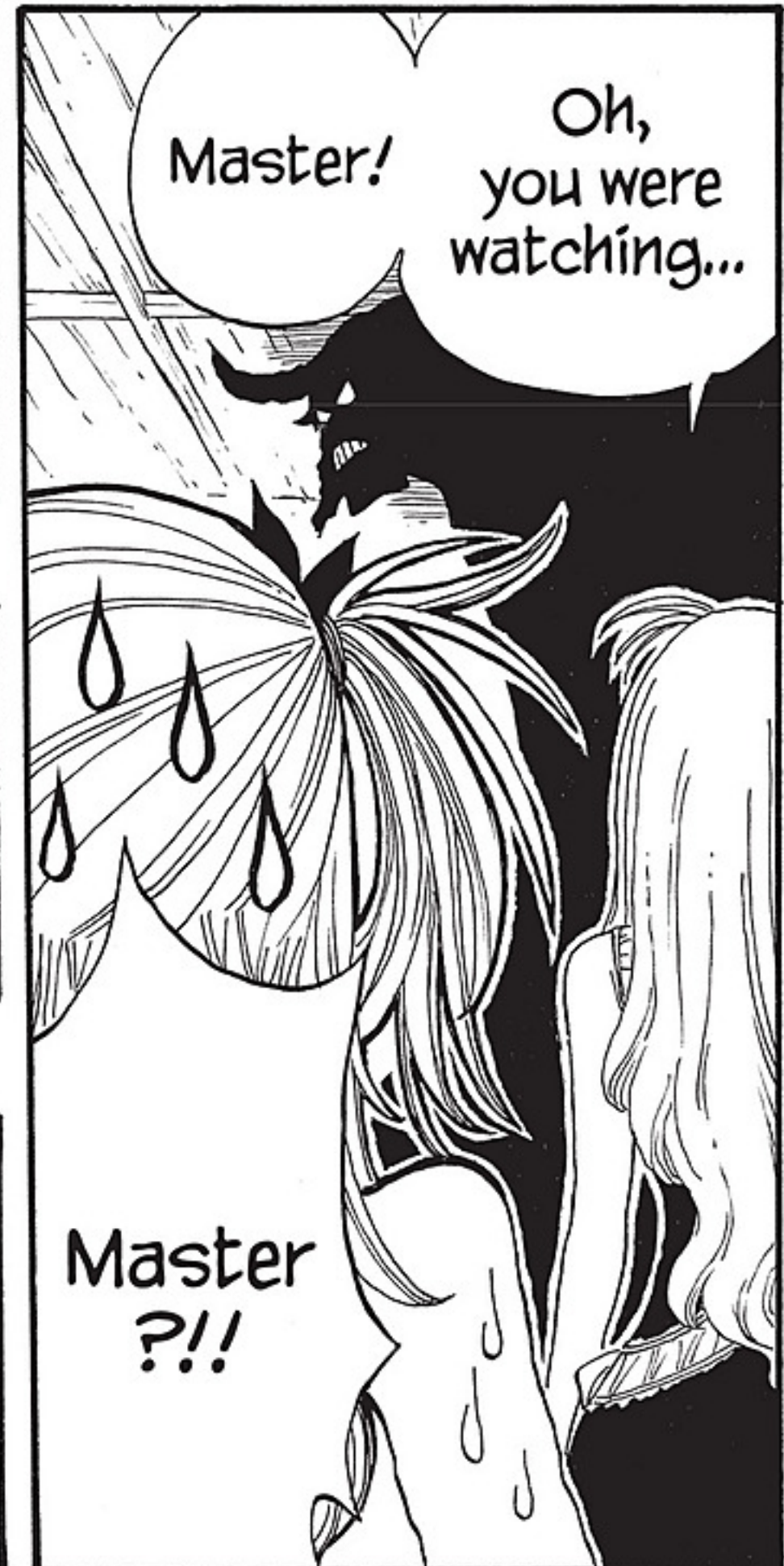
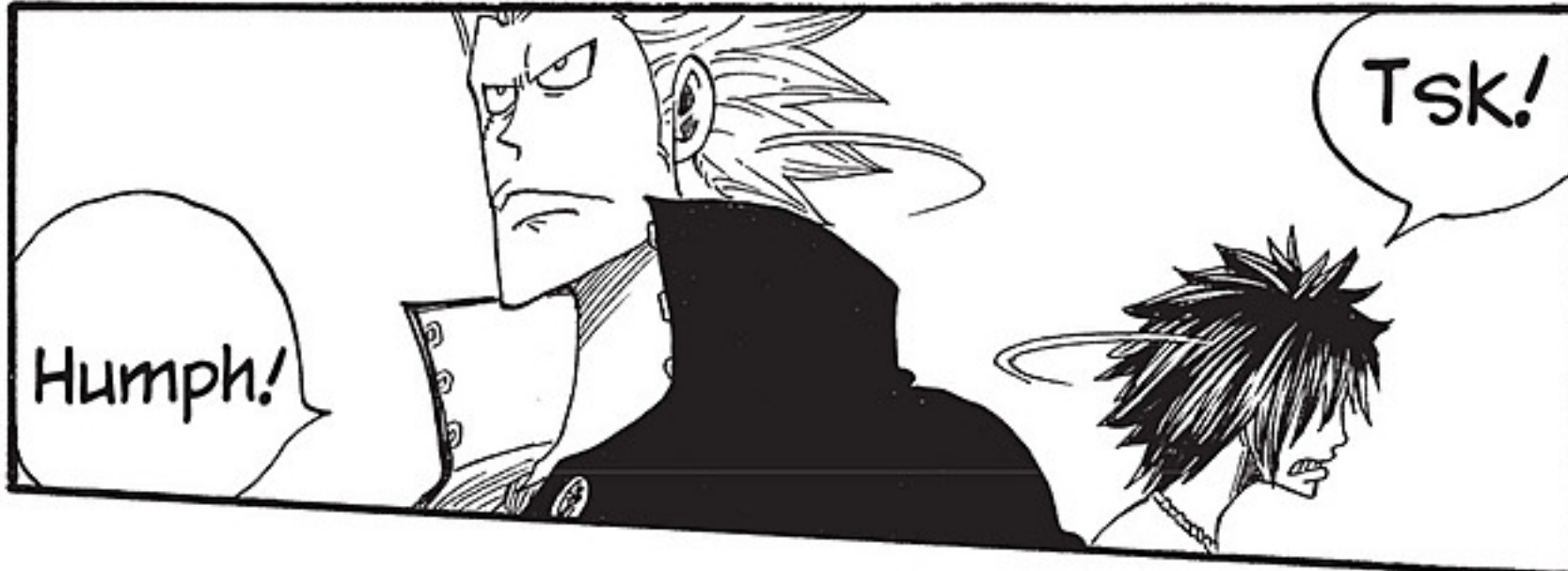
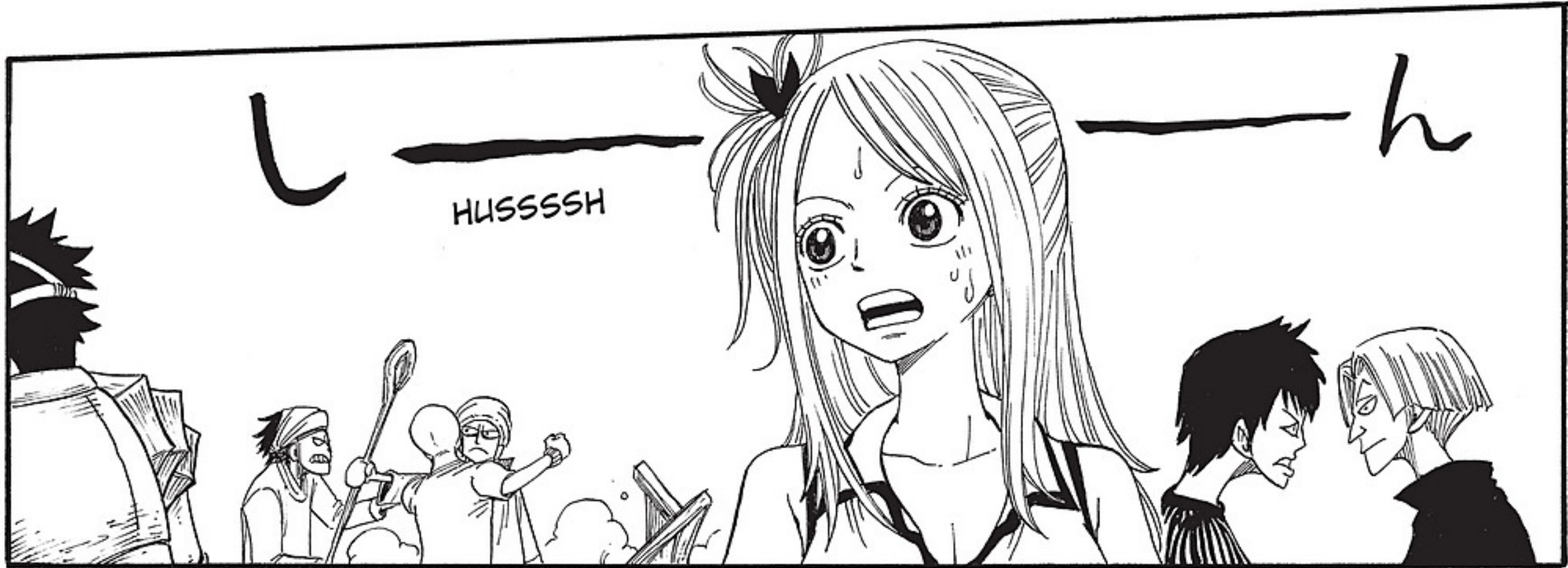
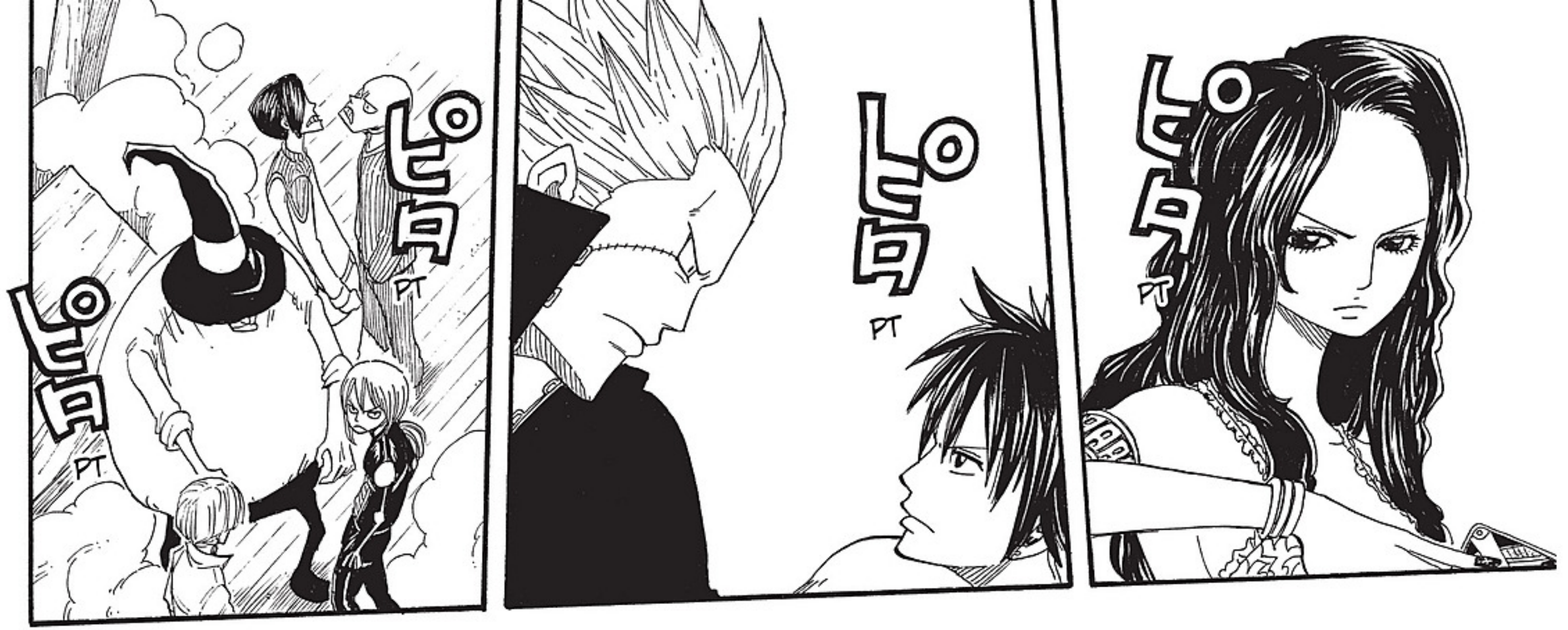


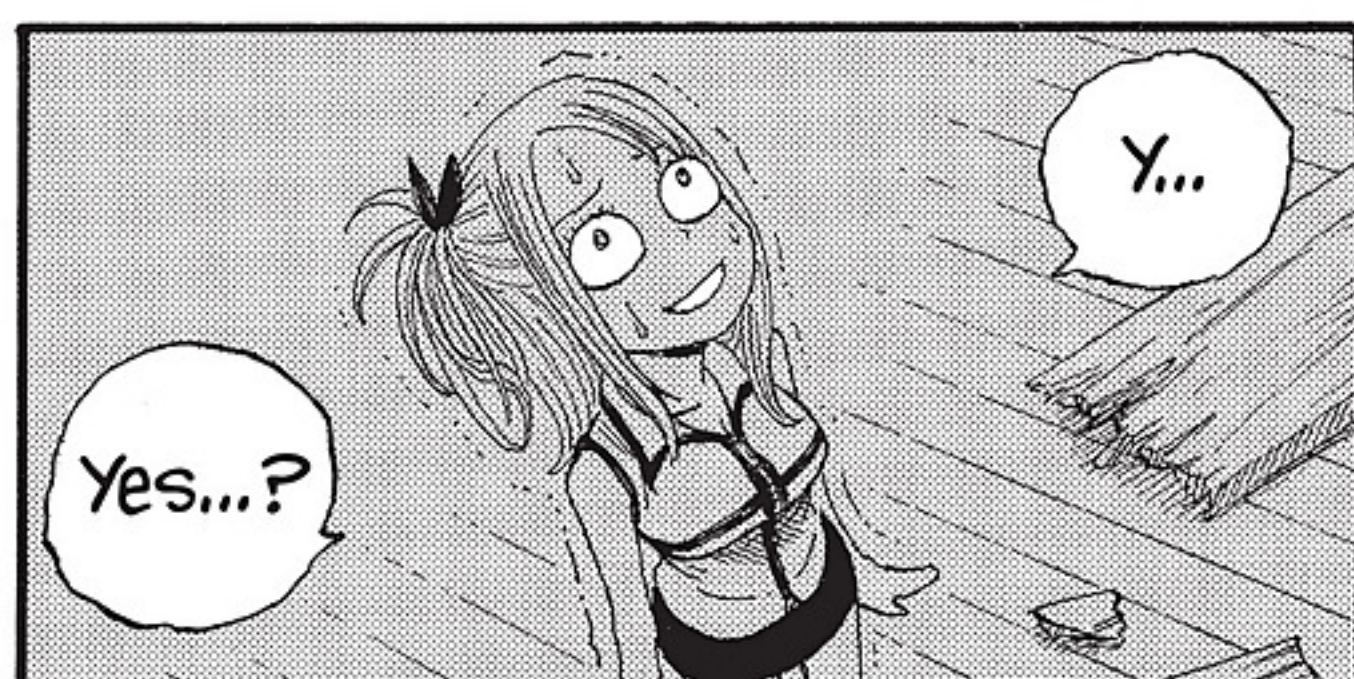


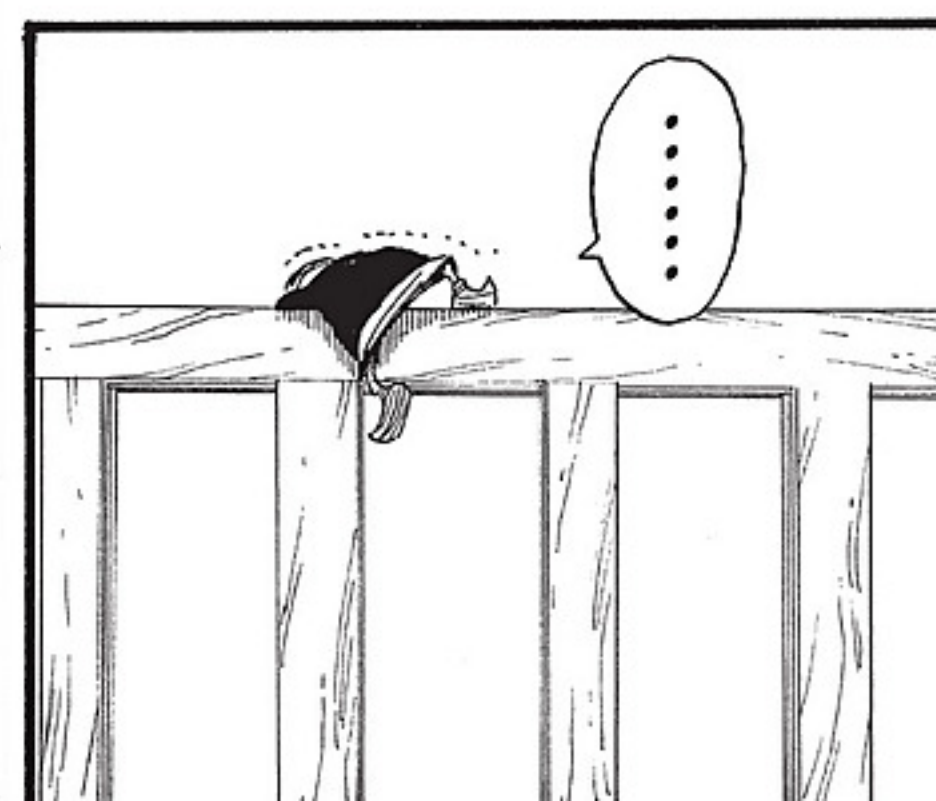
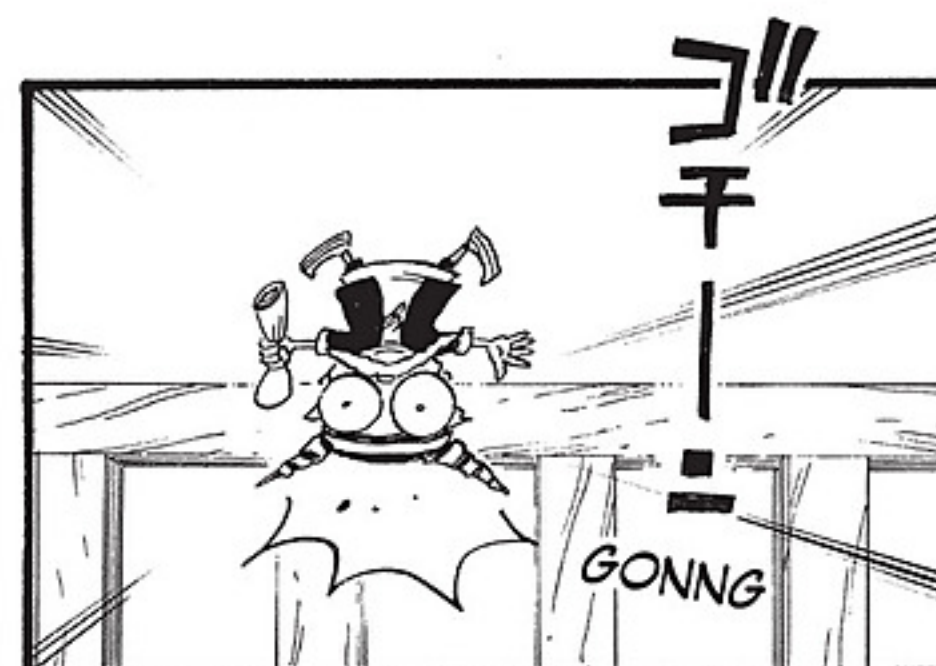
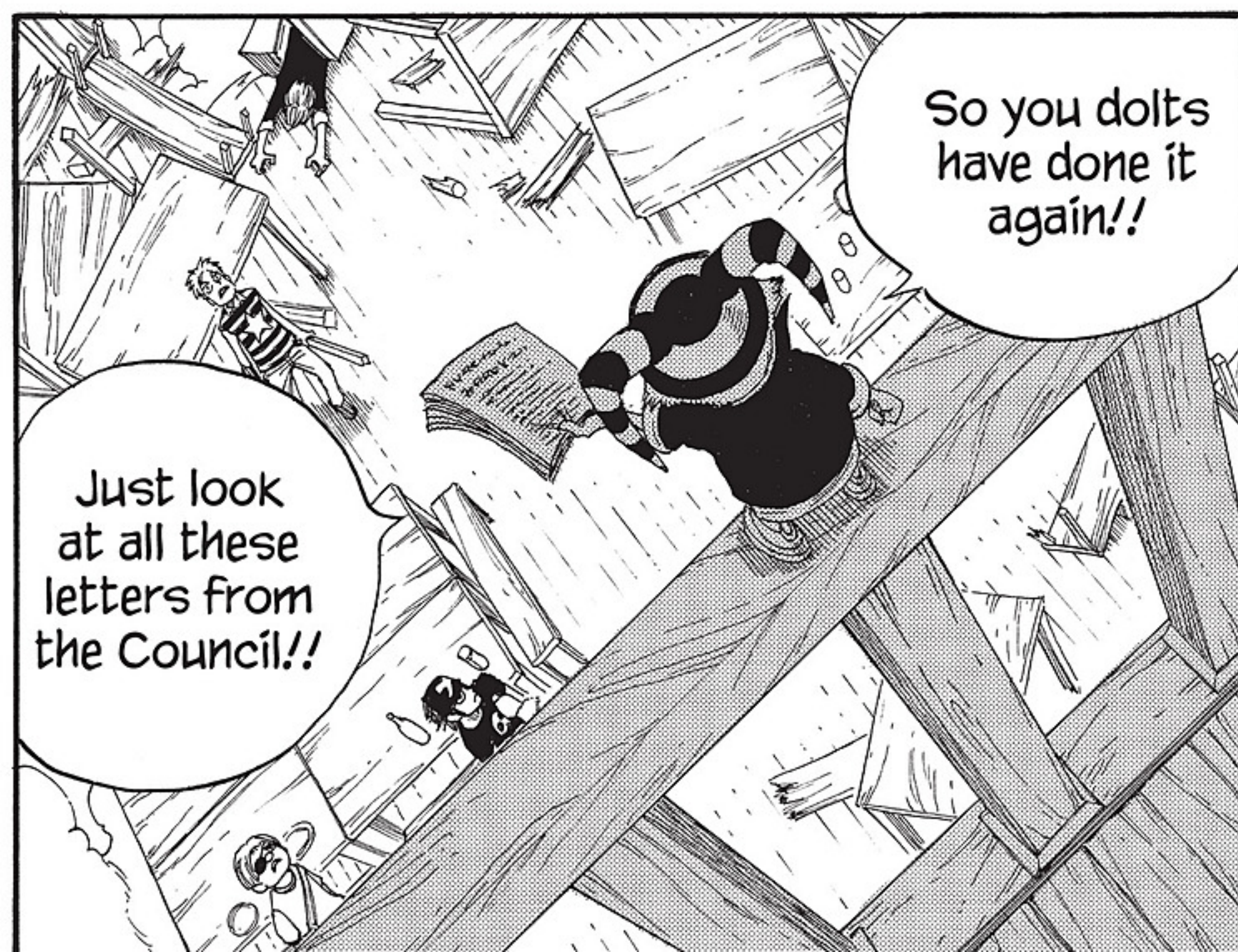
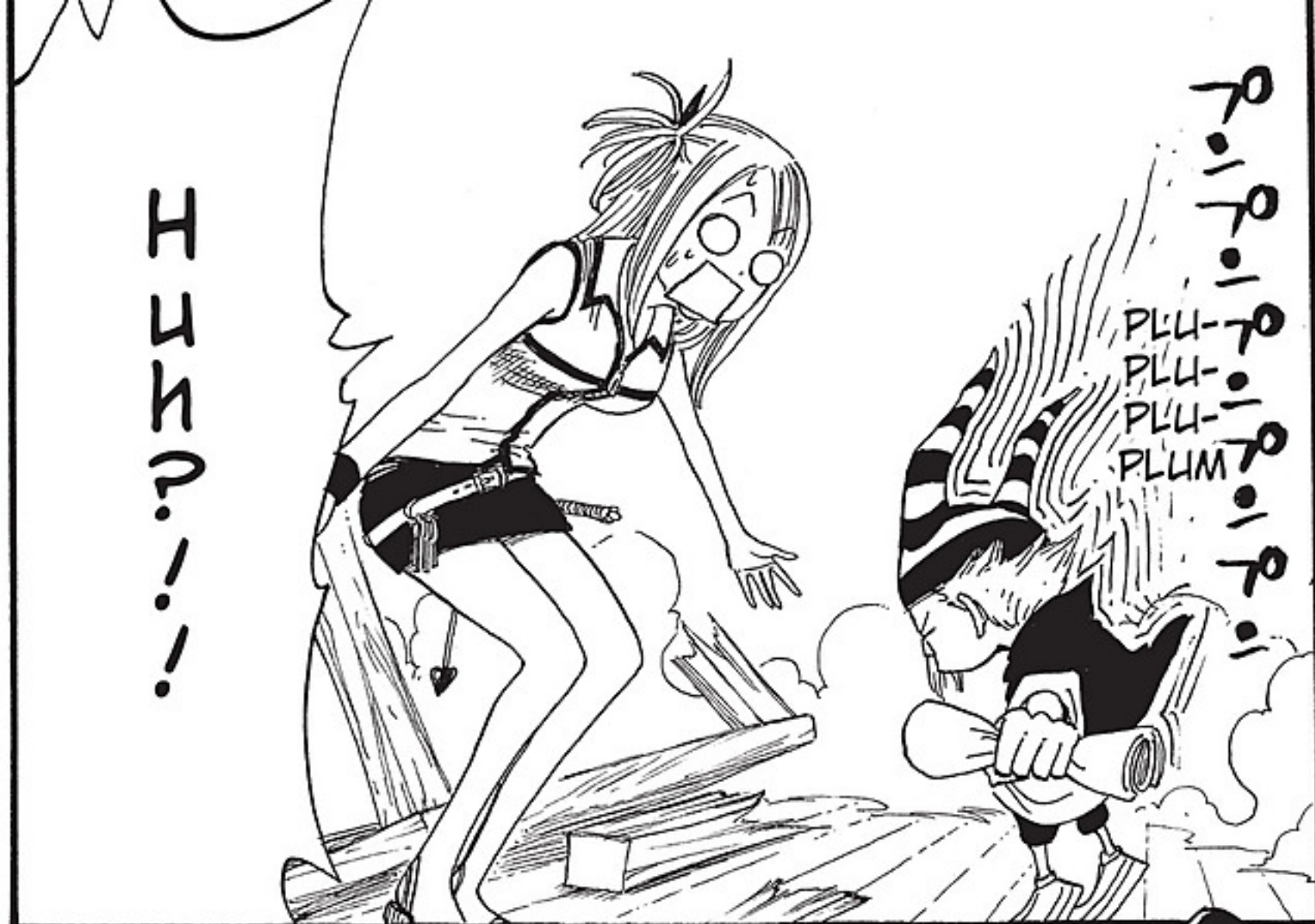
It's
huuuge
!!!!

Cut
it out,
you
dolts!!!!











Gray!



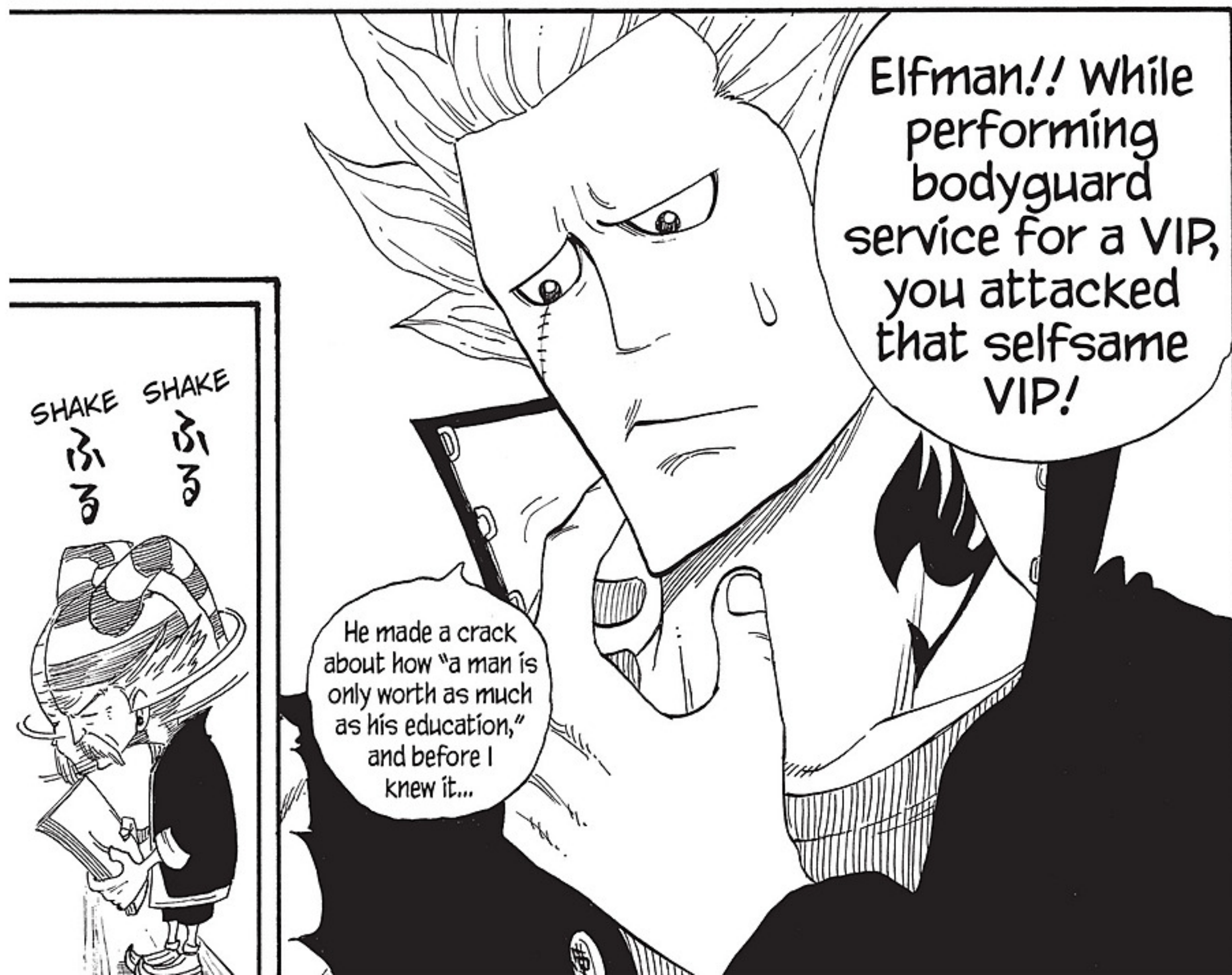
But...I couldn't keep running around naked!

Maybe if you hadn't gotten naked in the first place?

...and in the end, you wound up stealing somebody's underwear right off the line and running away with it.

...but afterward, you stumbled around town in the nude...

It's good that you rounded up that ring of smugglers...



Elfman!! While performing bodyguard service for a VIP, you attacked that selfsame VIP!

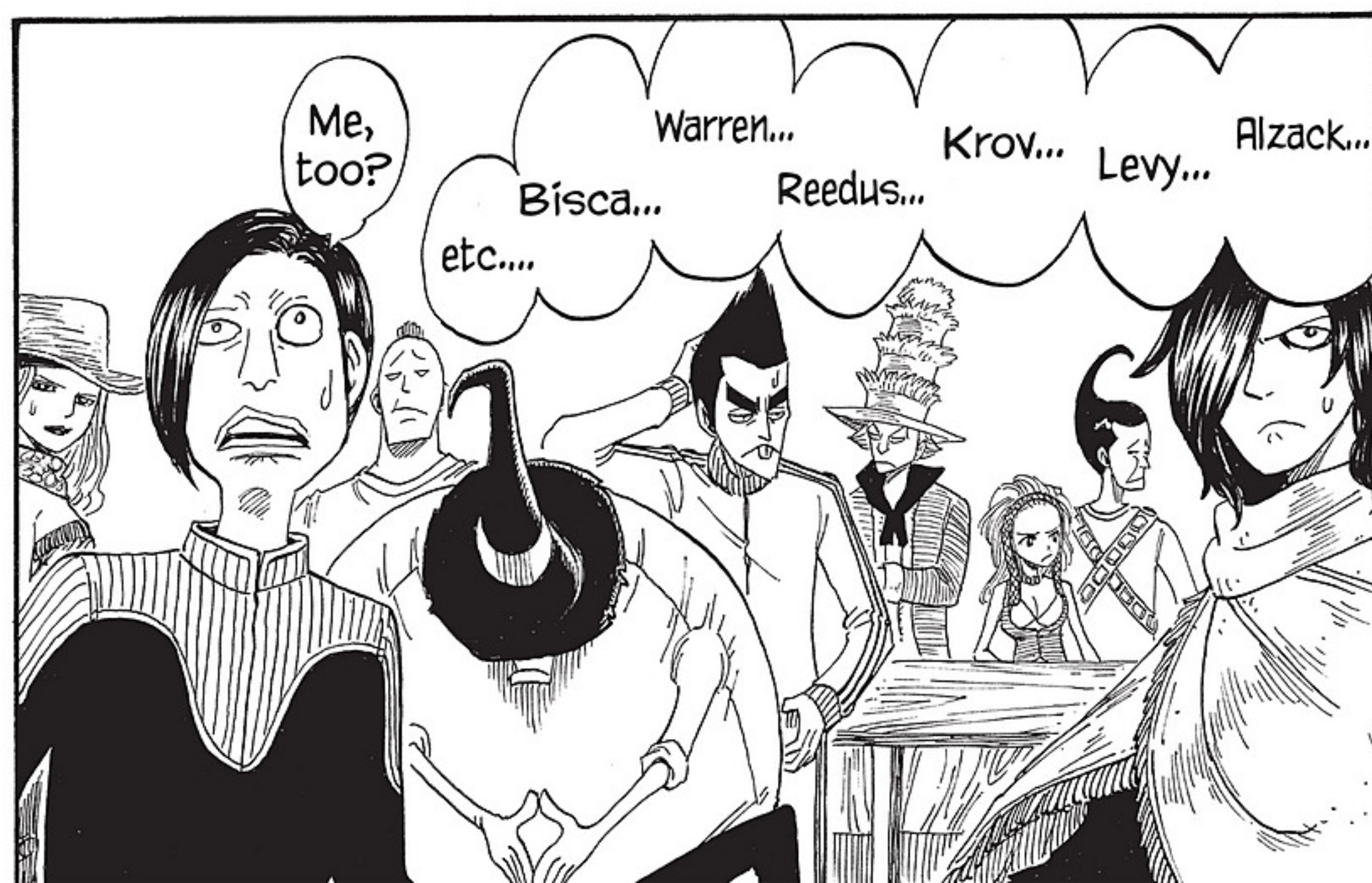
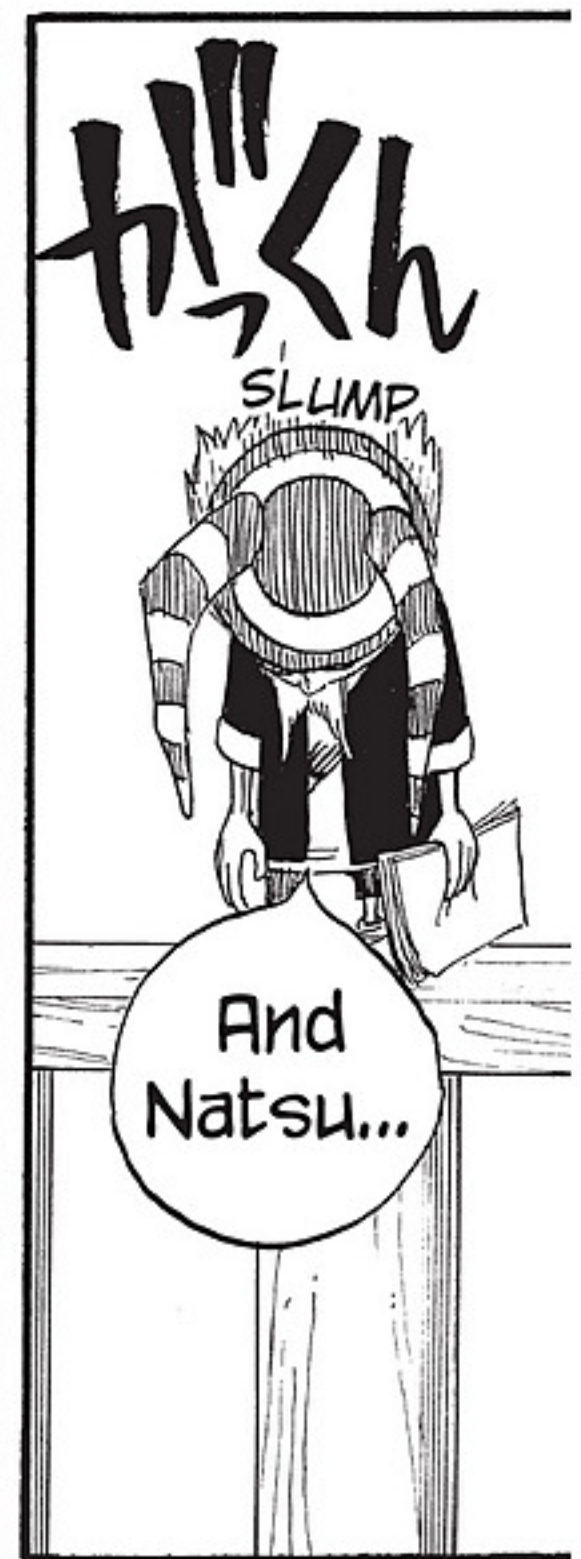
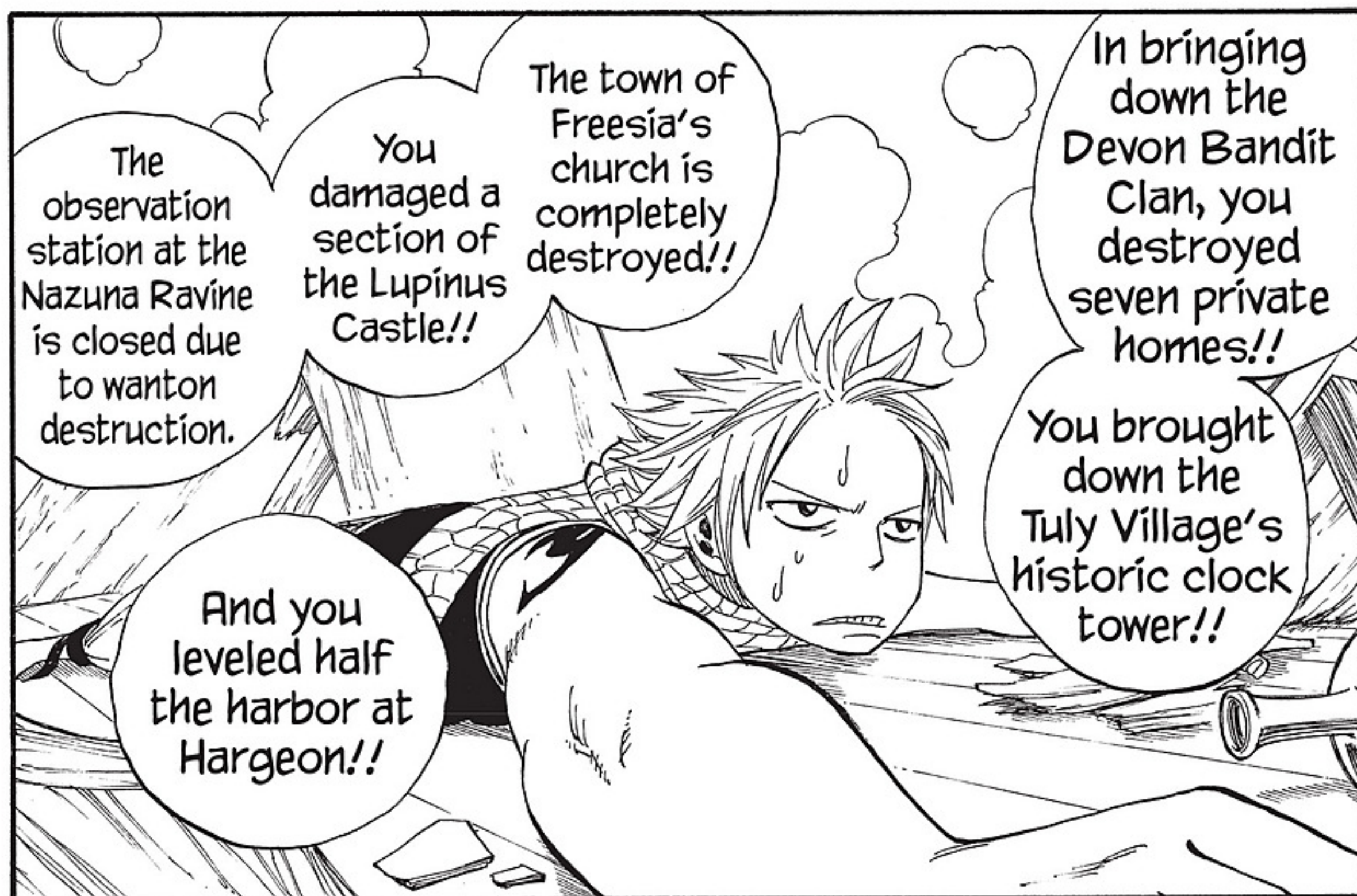
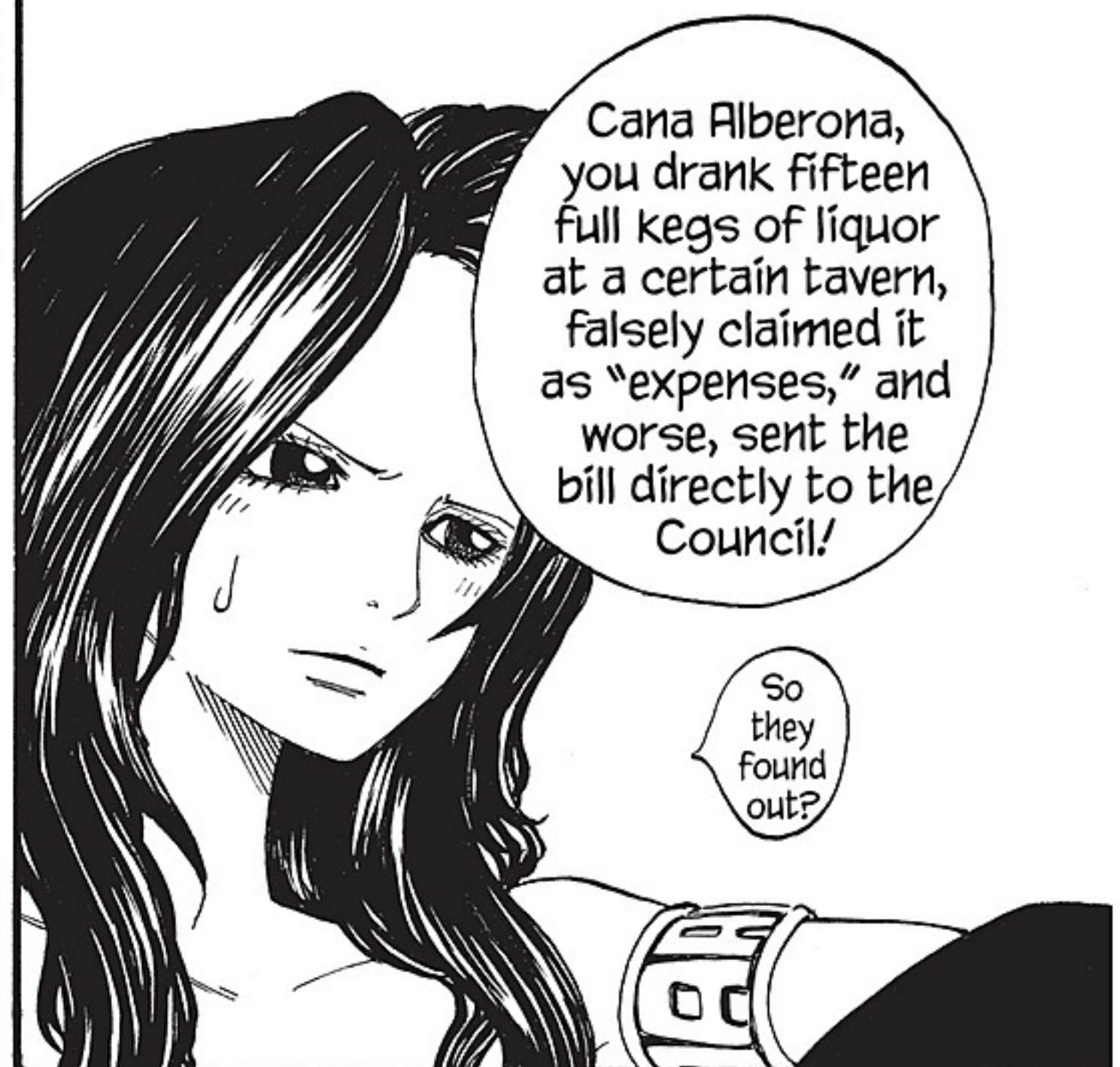
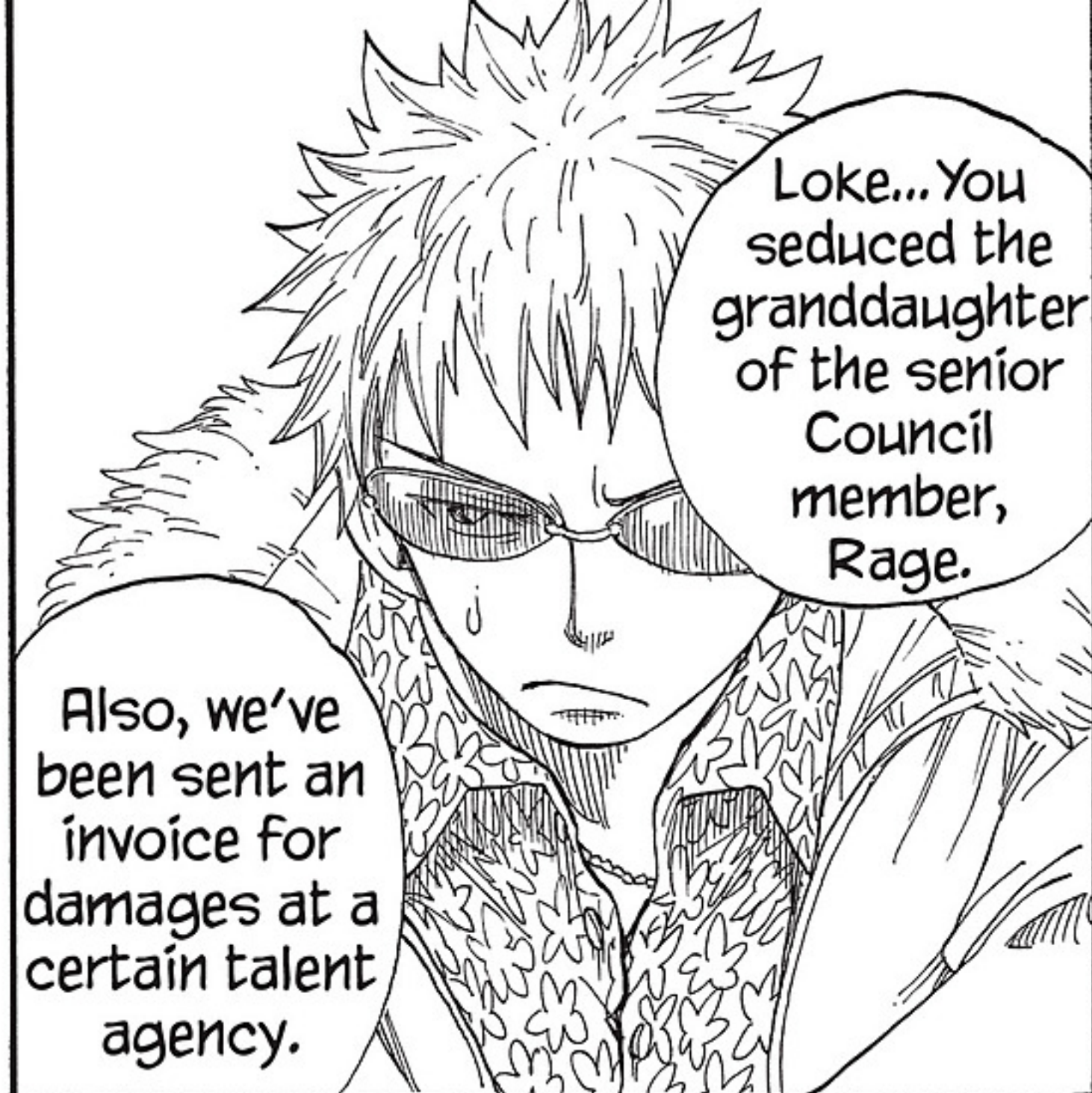
He made a crack about how "a man is only worth as much as his education," and before I knew it...

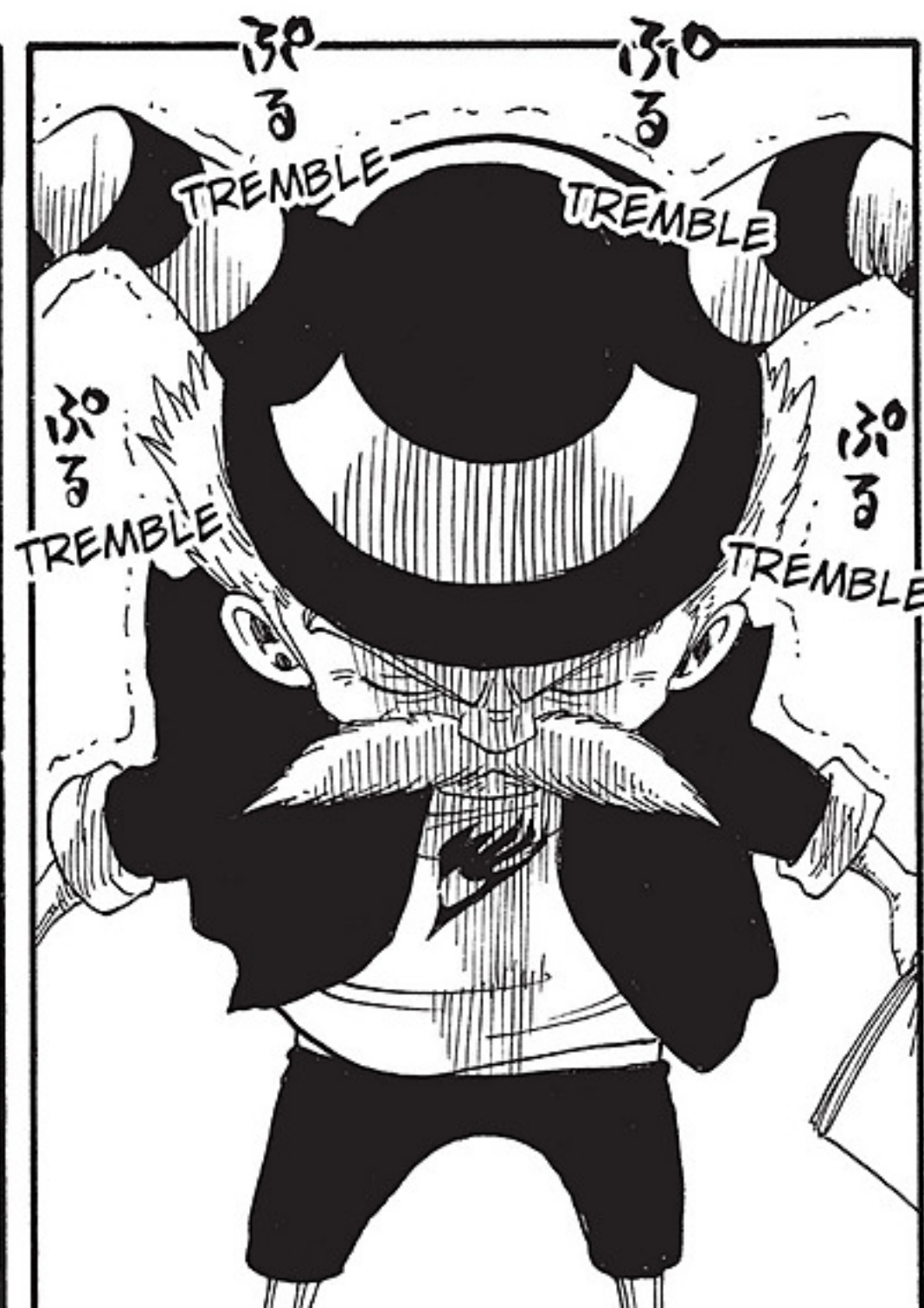
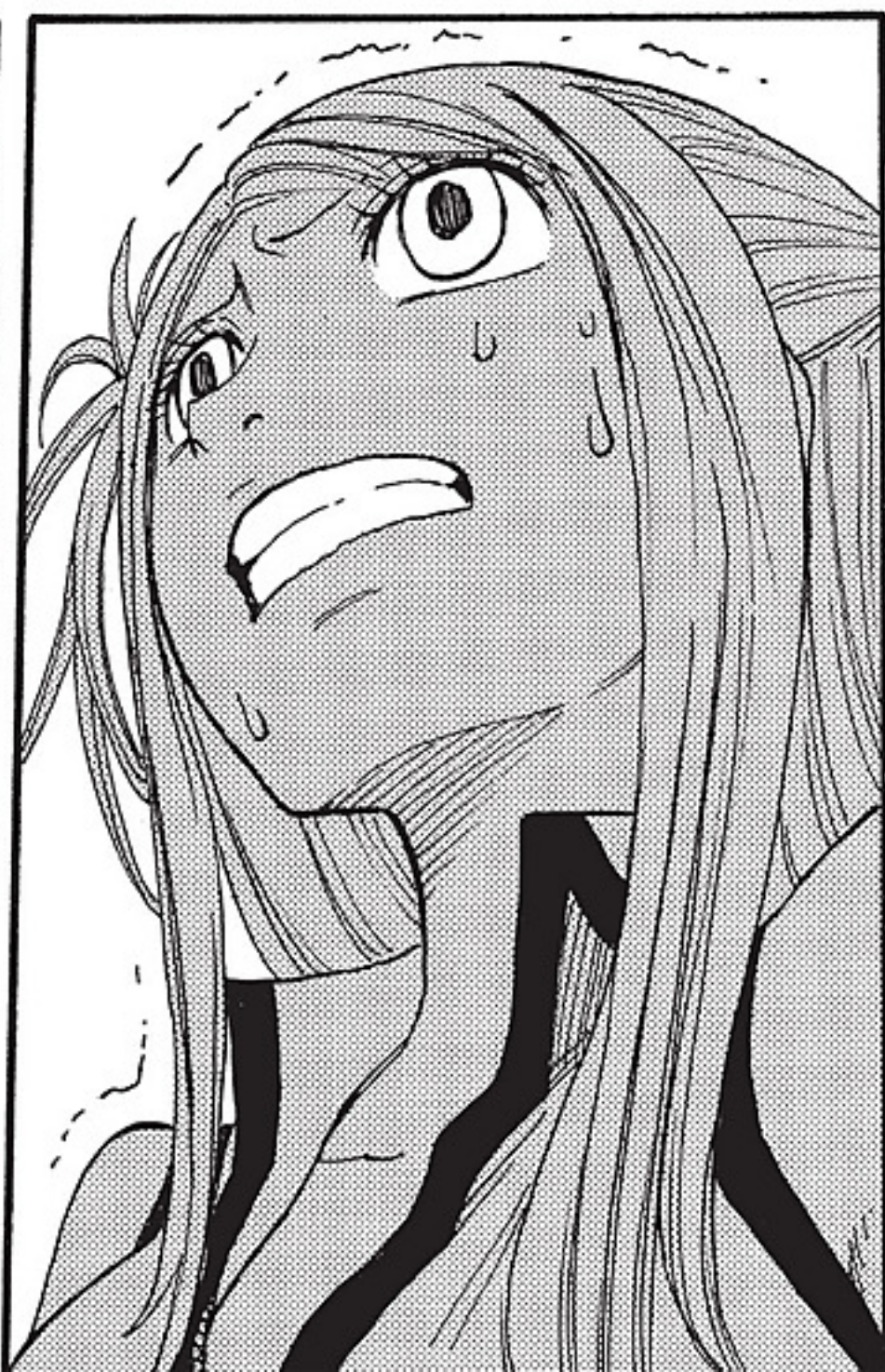
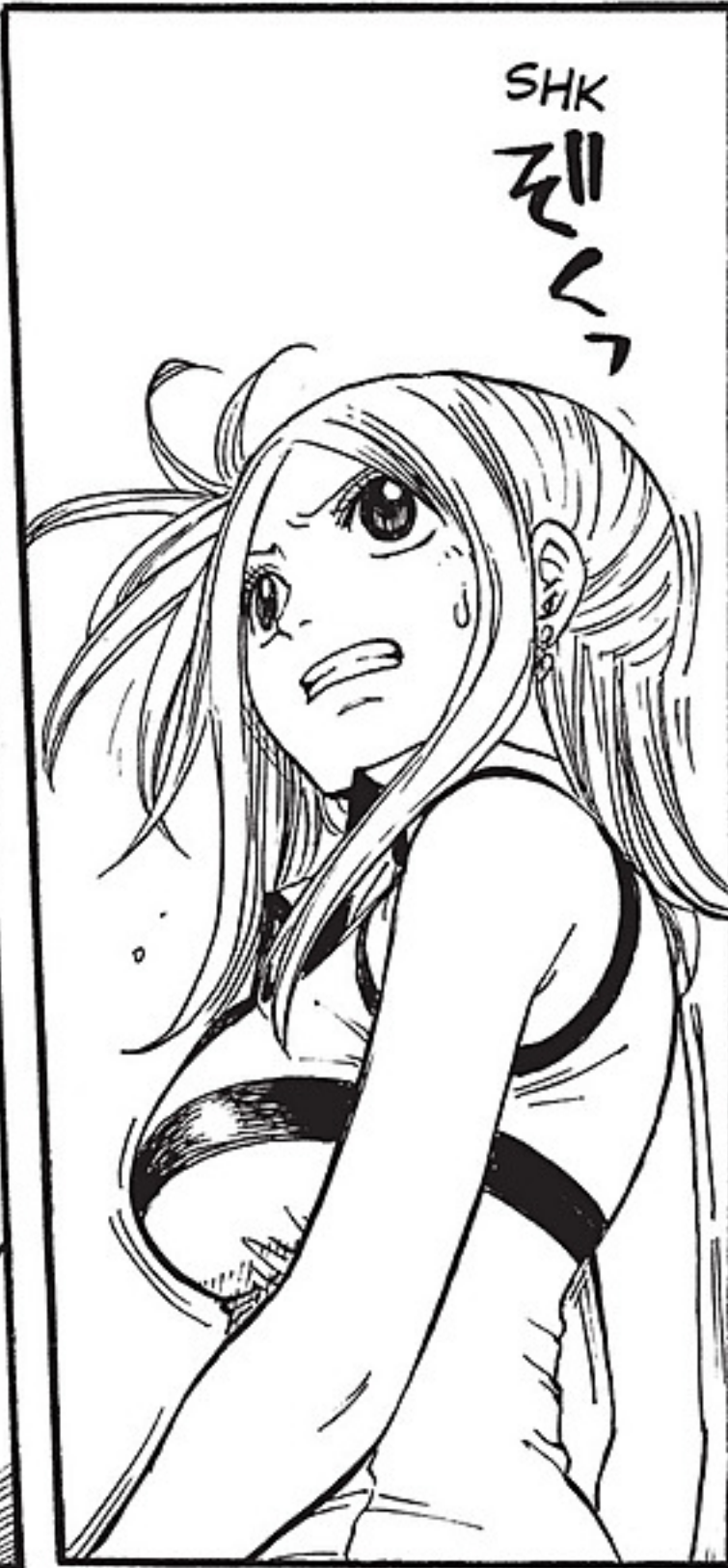
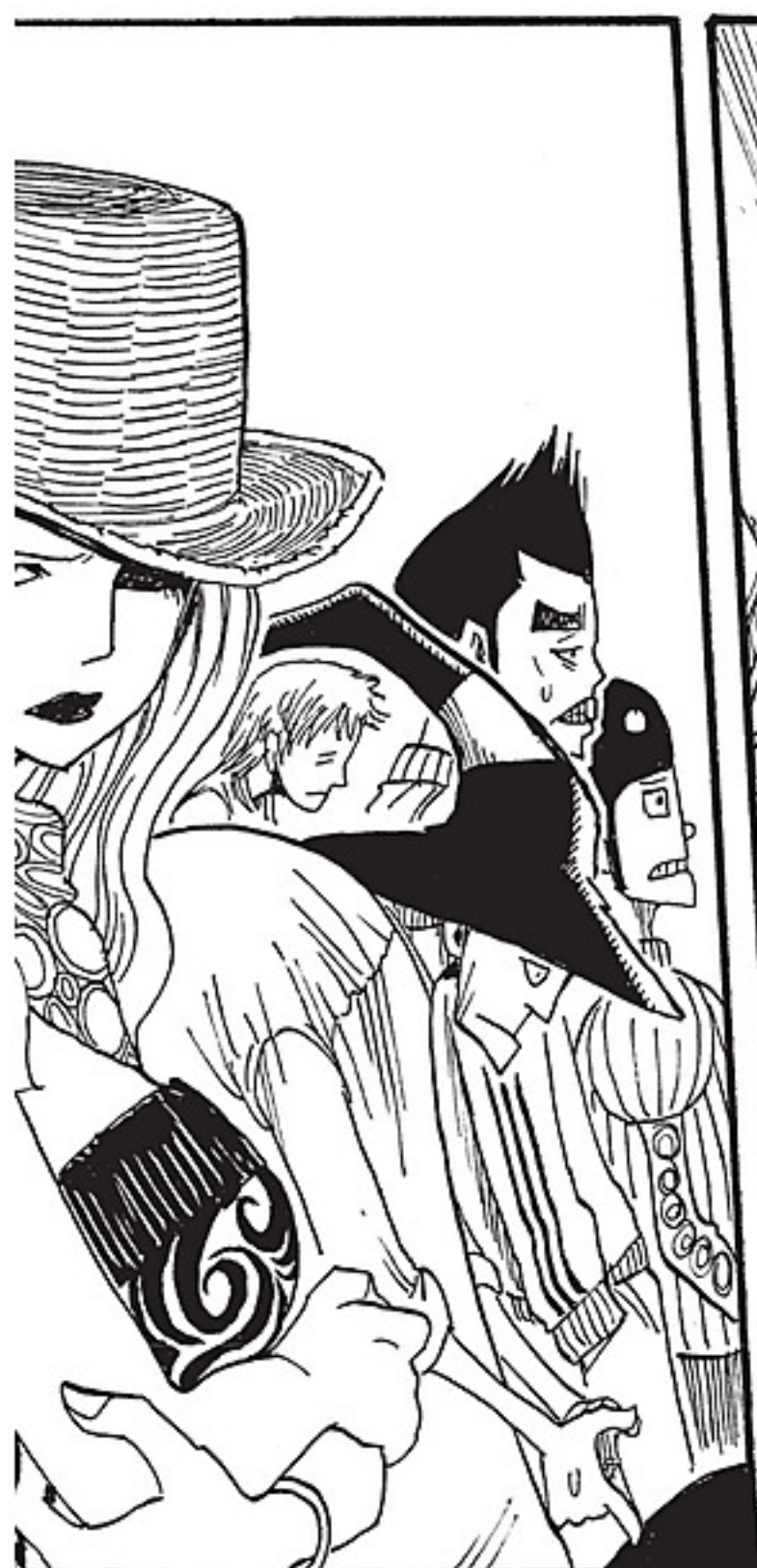
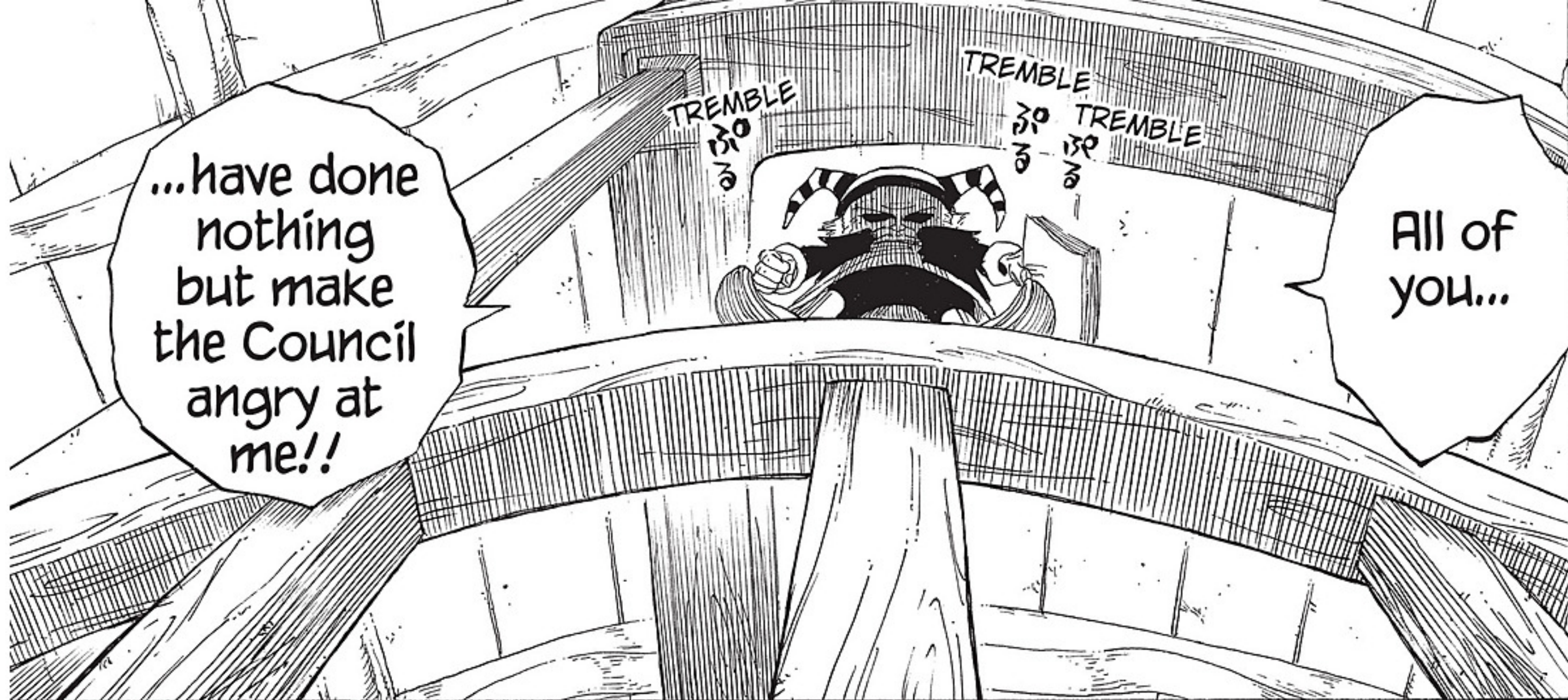


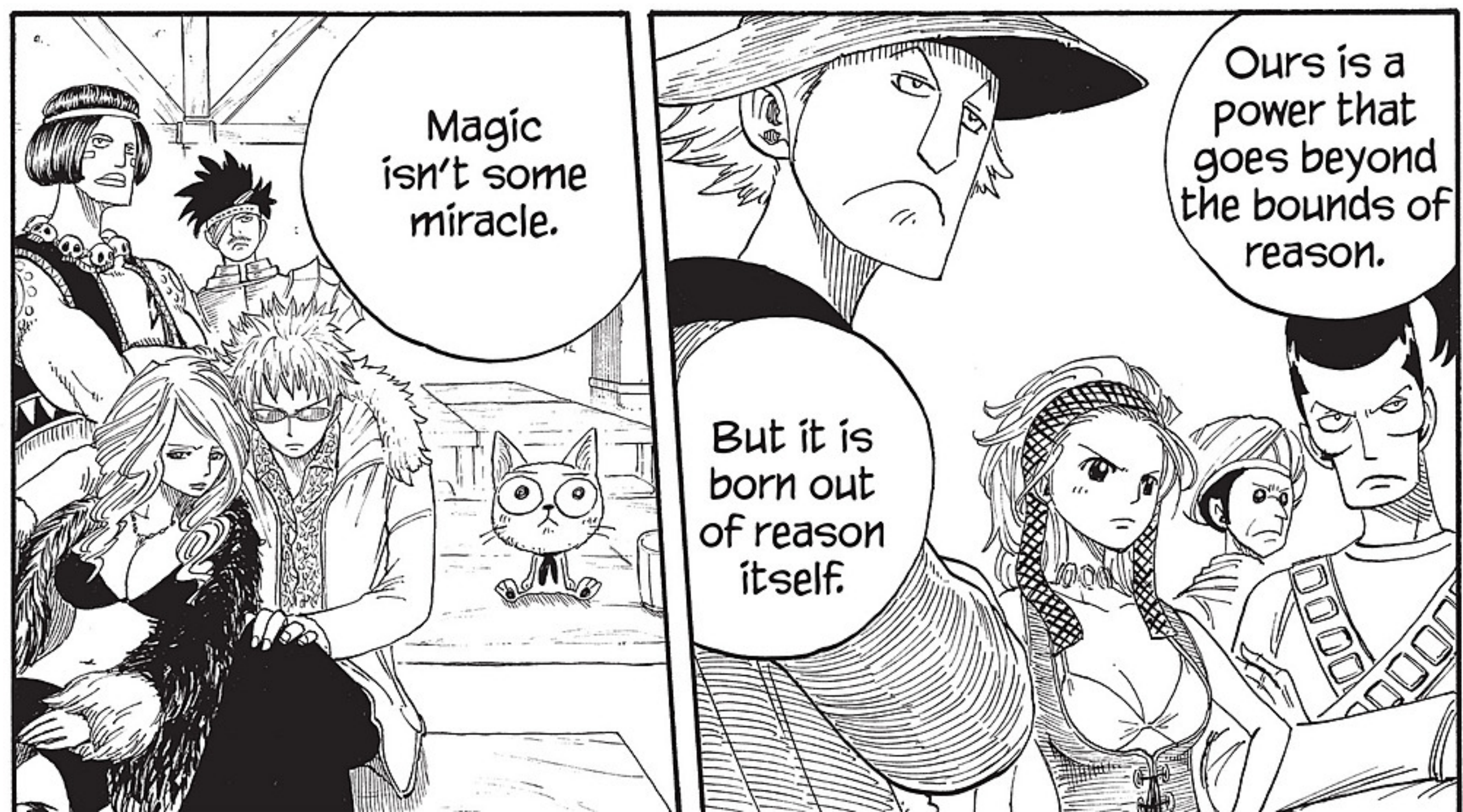
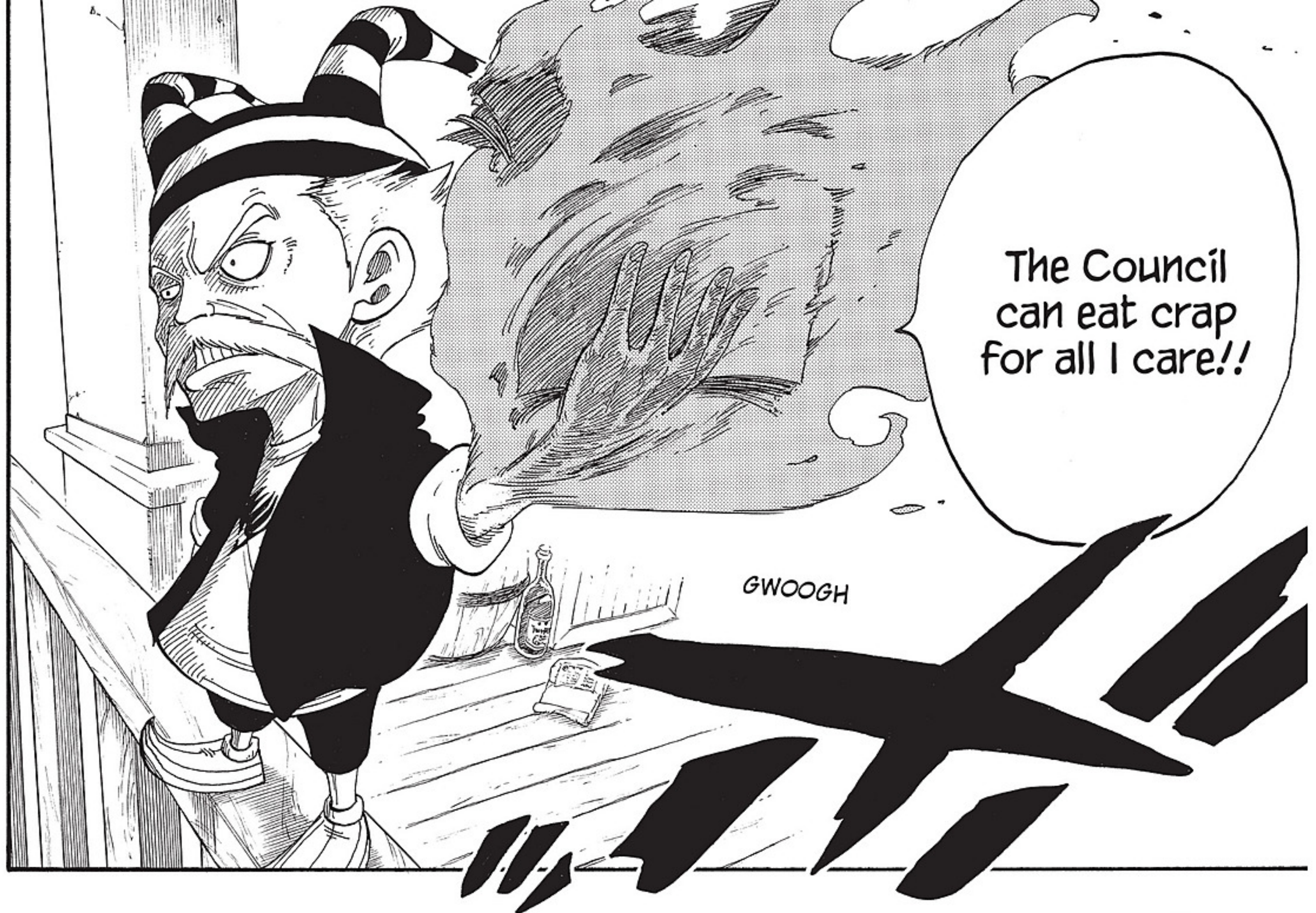
SIGH
はあ

SHAKE SHAKE
ふる ふる





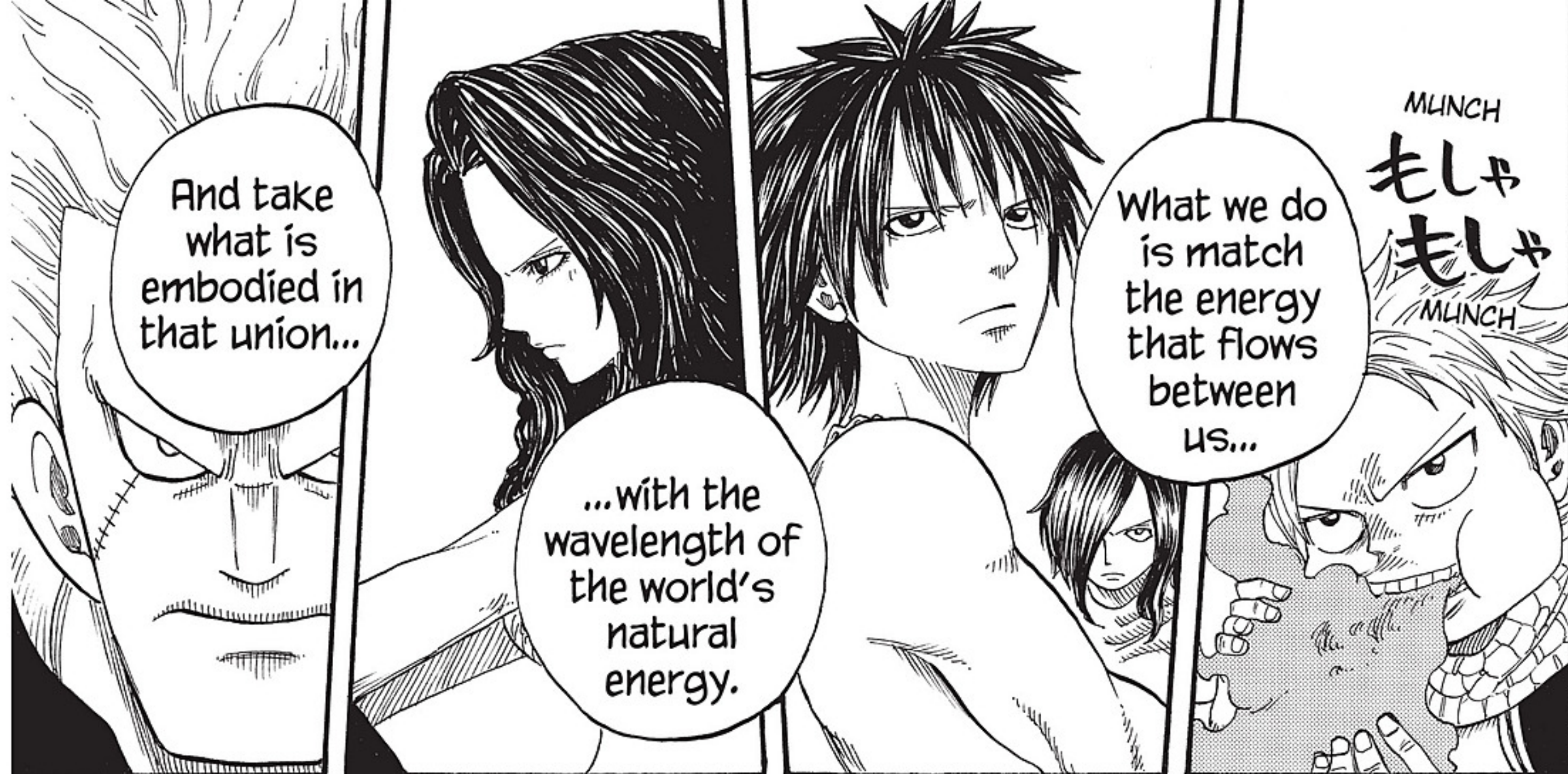






Follow the
path you
truly believe
in!!!!

That is what
it means to
be a Fairy Tail
wizard!!!!

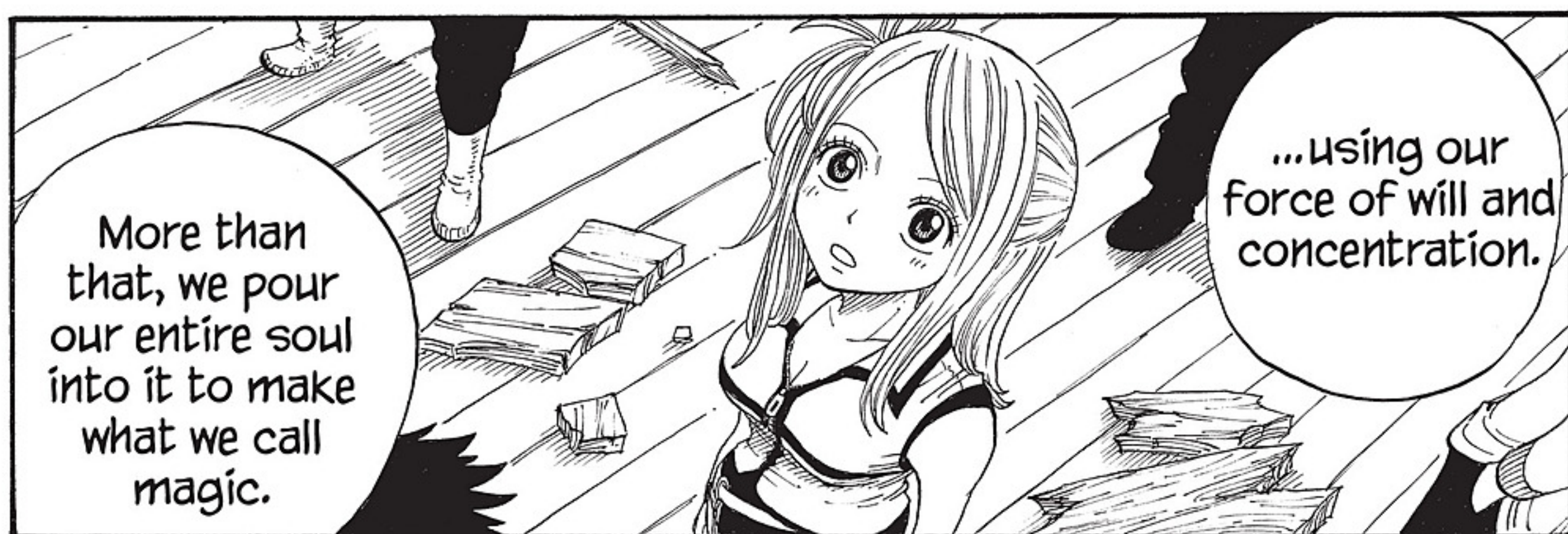


And take
what is
embodied in
that union...

...with the
wavelength of
the world's
natural
energy.

What we do
is match
the energy
that flows
between
us...

MUNCH
もしや
もしや
MUNCH



More than
that, we pour
our entire soul
into it to make
what we call
magic.

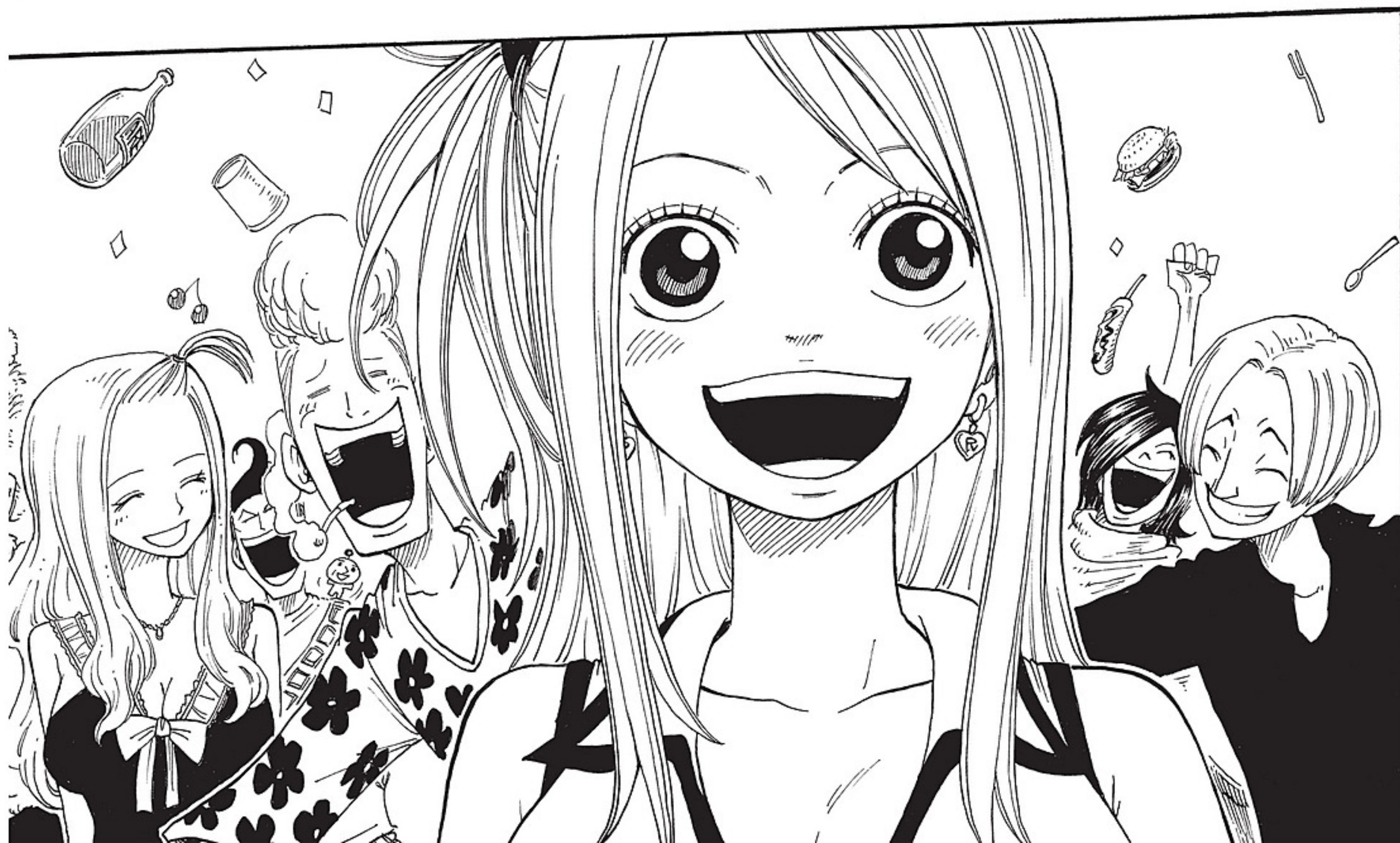
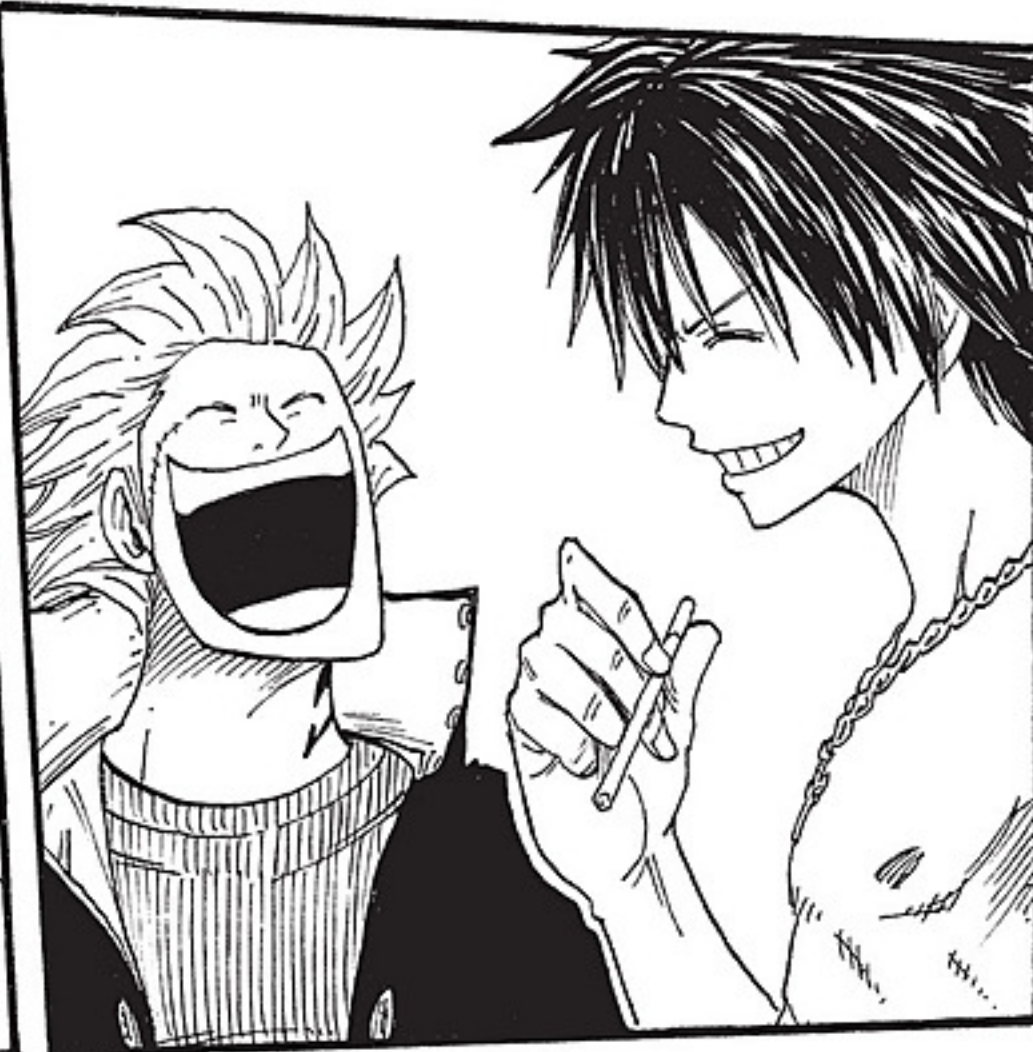
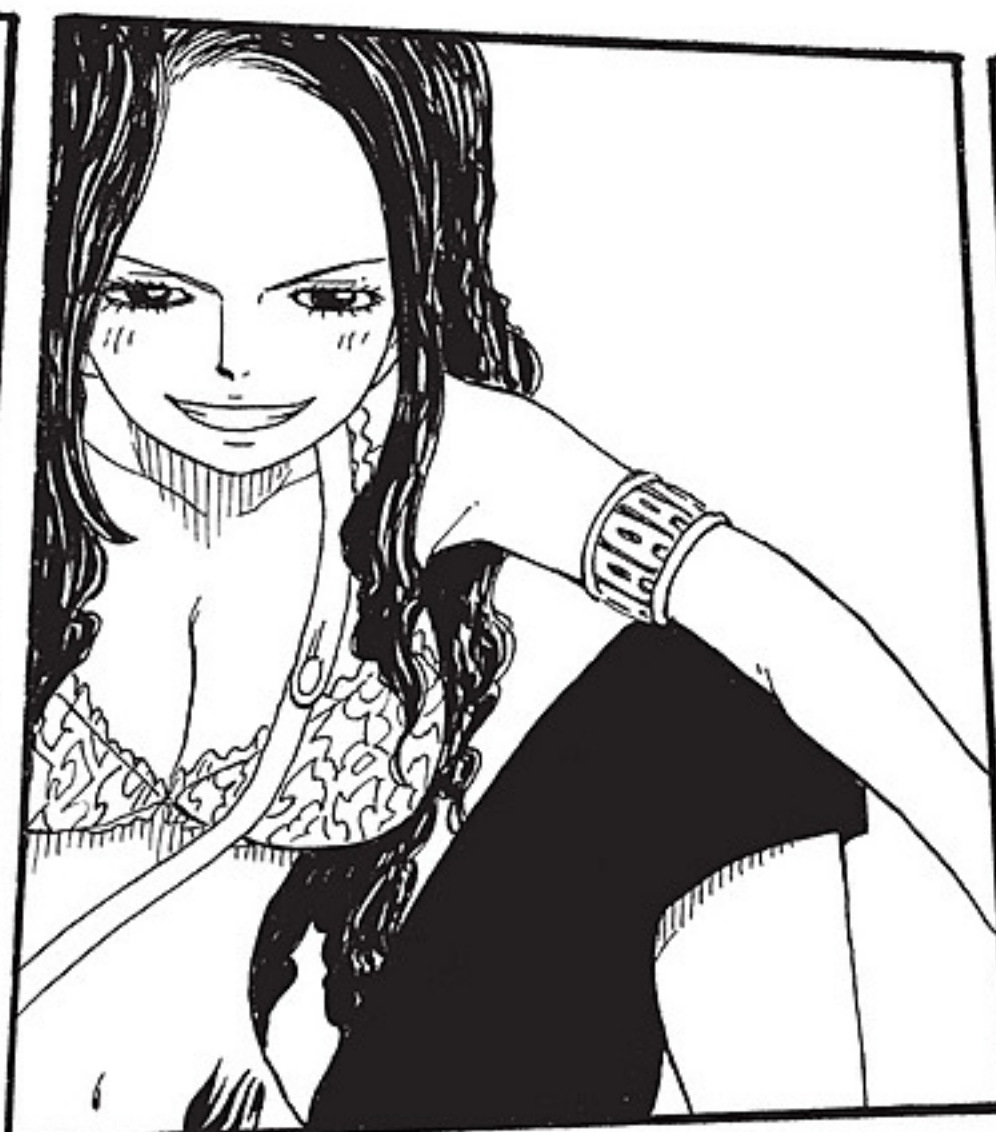
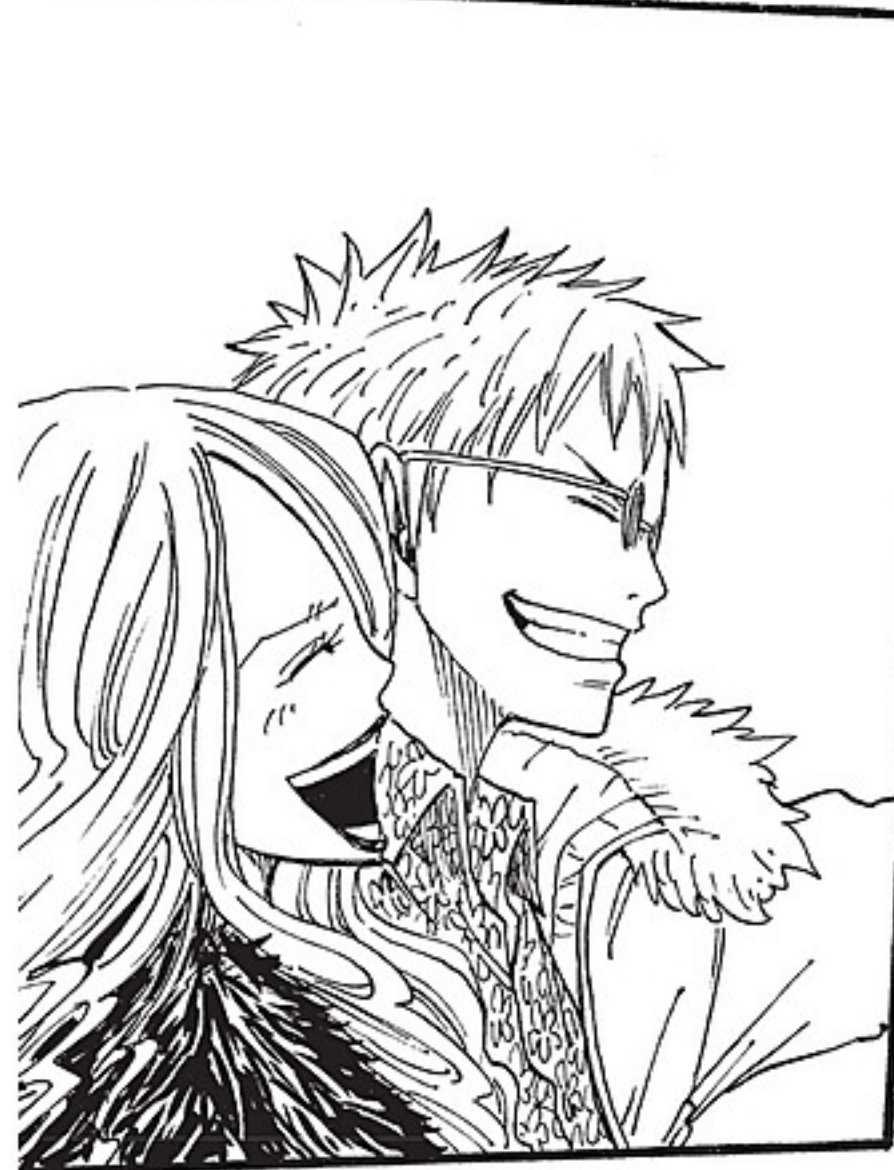
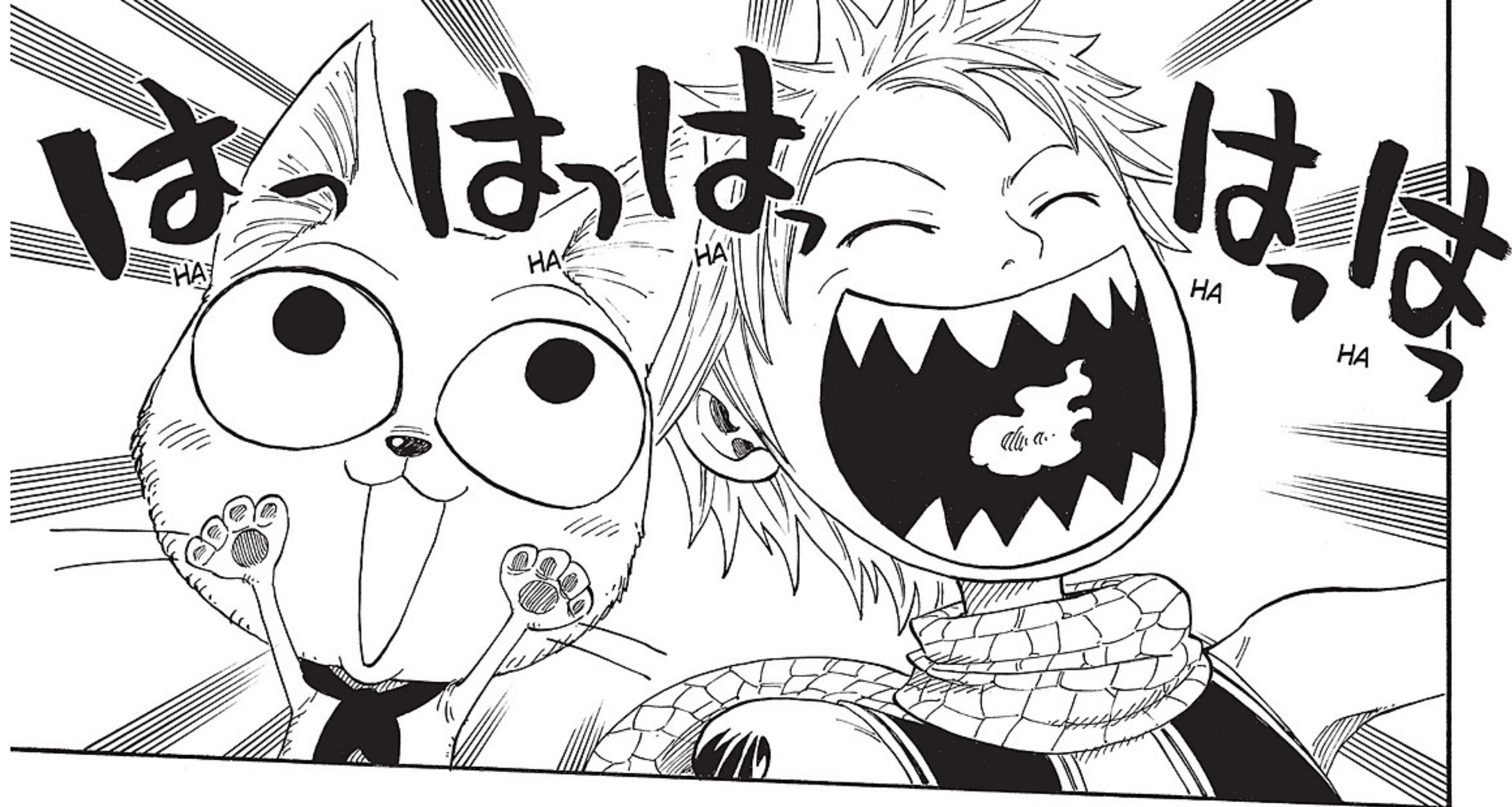
...using our
force of will and
concentration.

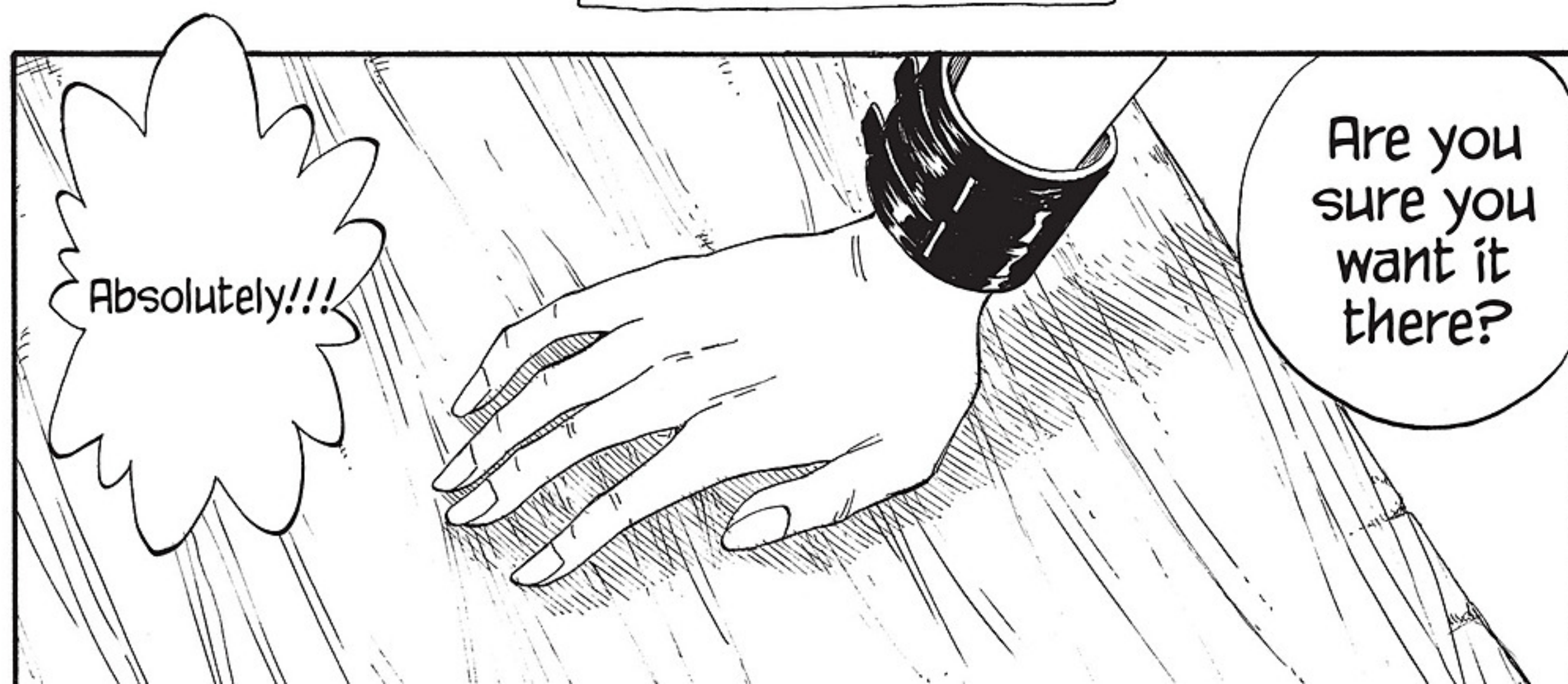
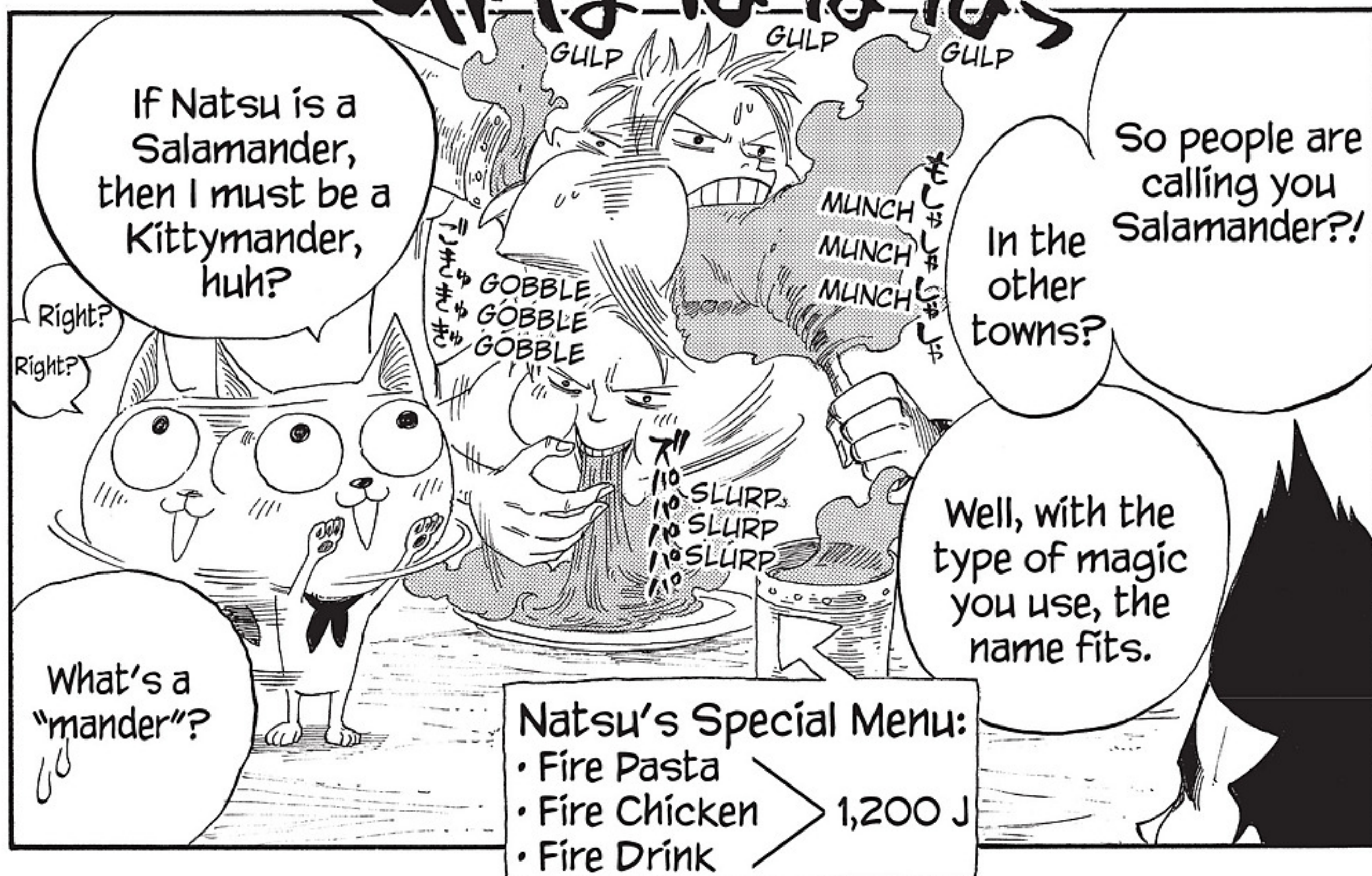


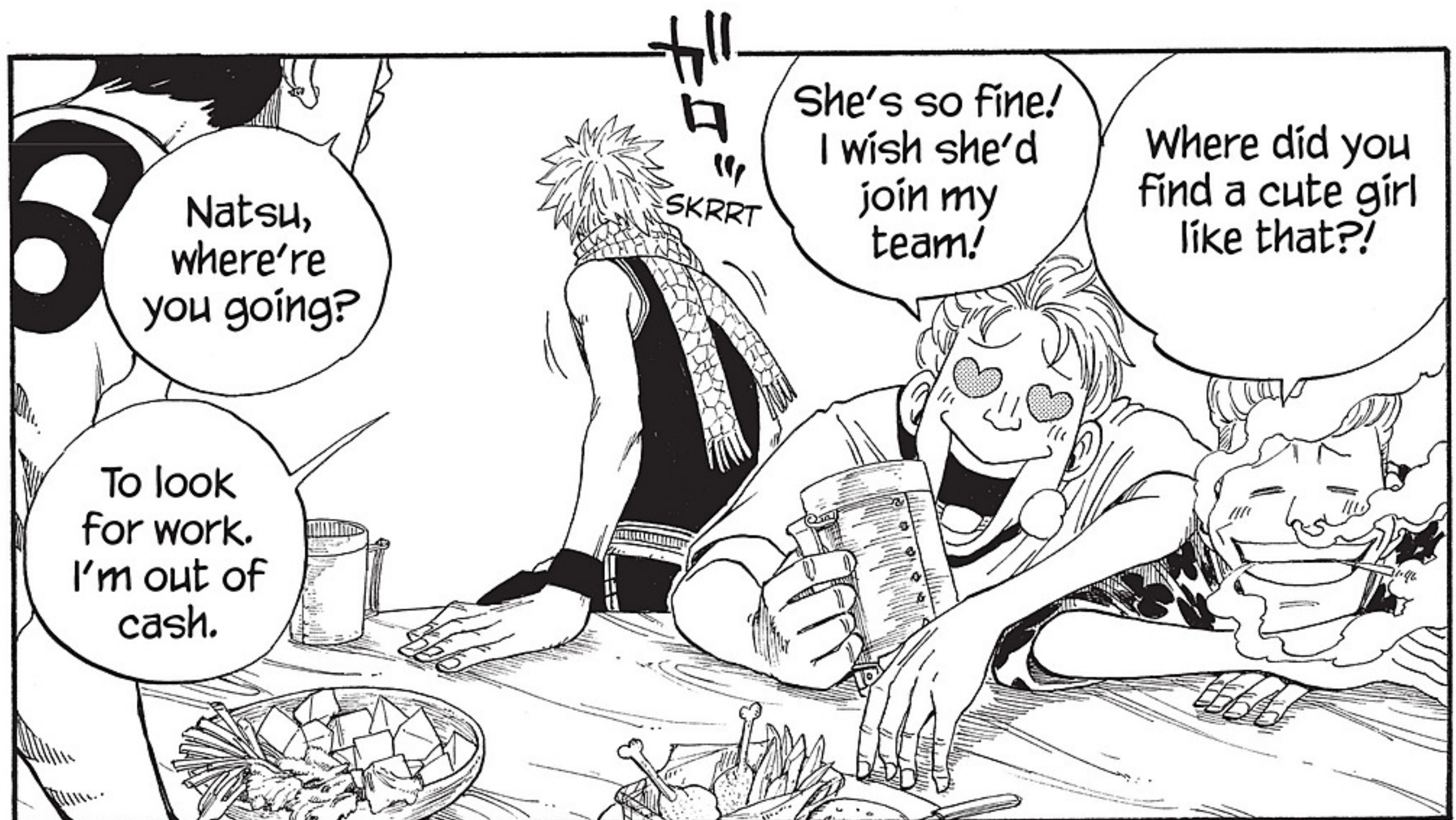
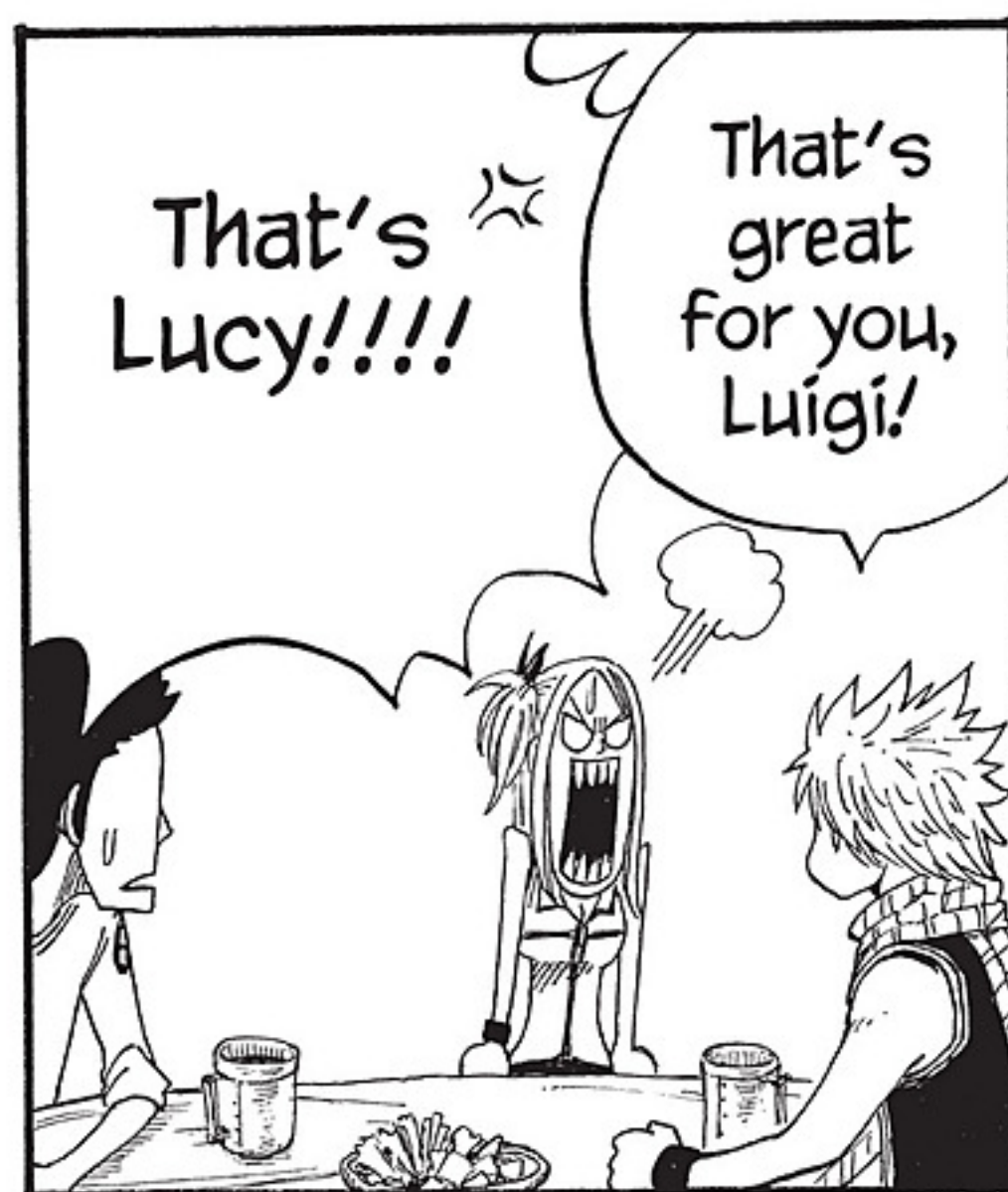
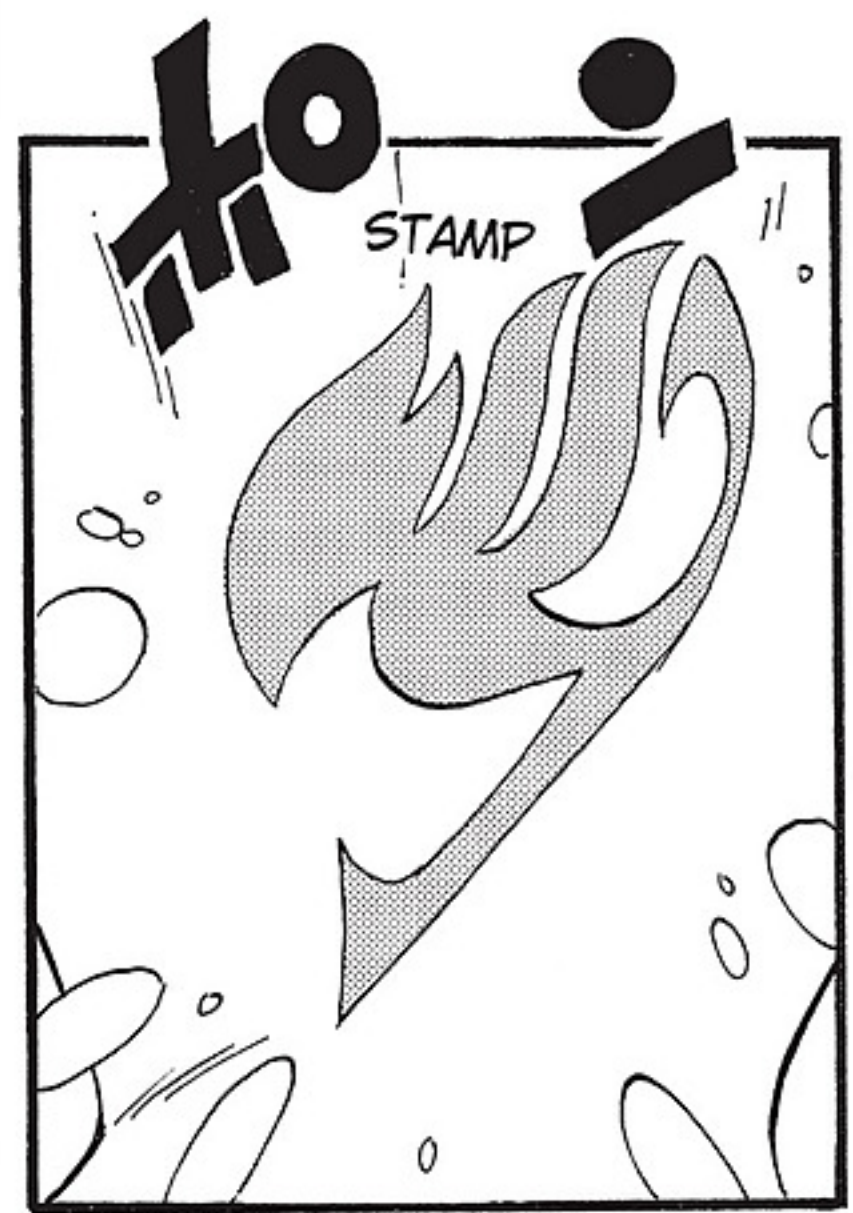
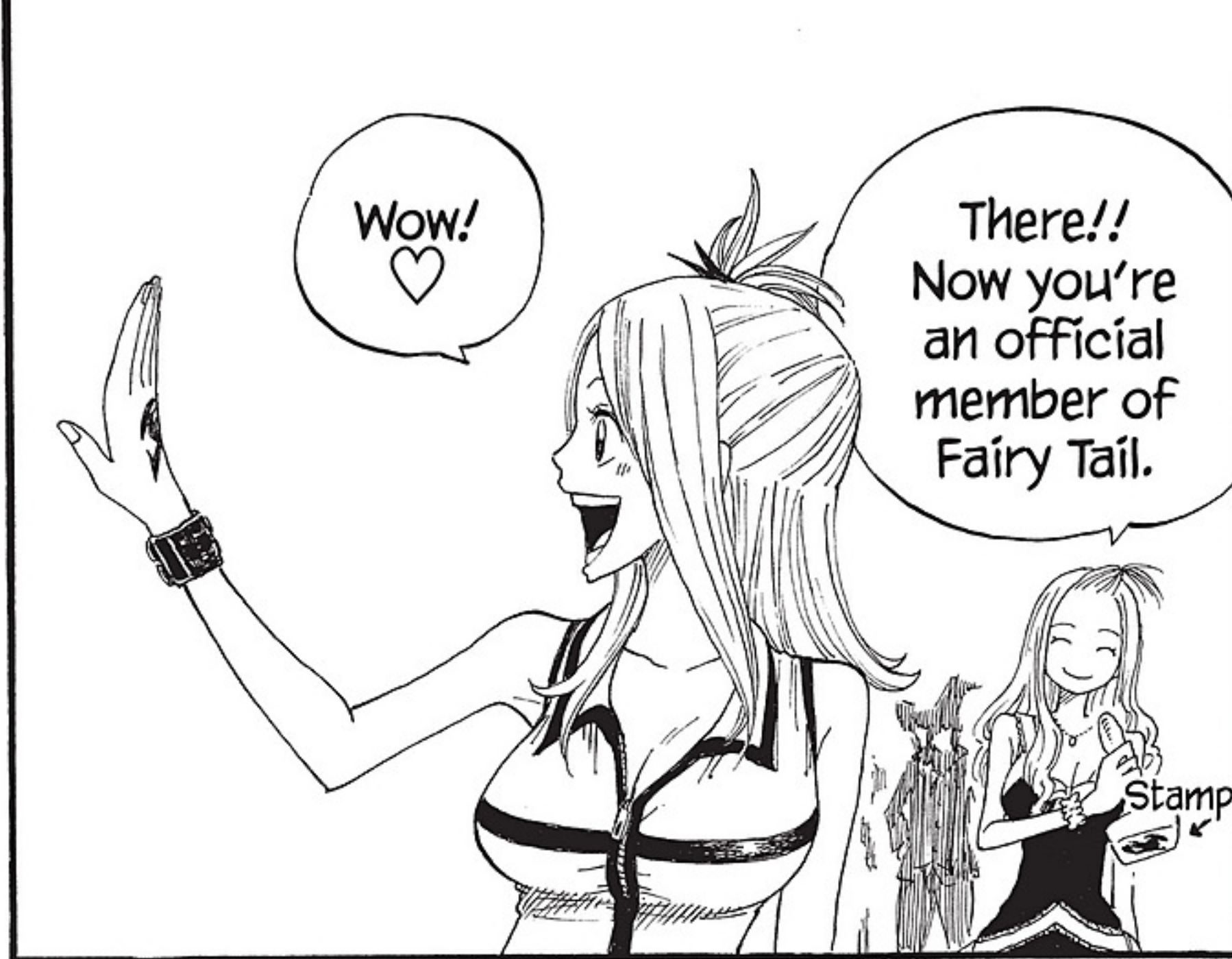
So don't
let those idiots
on the Council
intimidate
you!!

If you spend
time worrying
about what those
in authority think
of you, your
magic will never
advance!

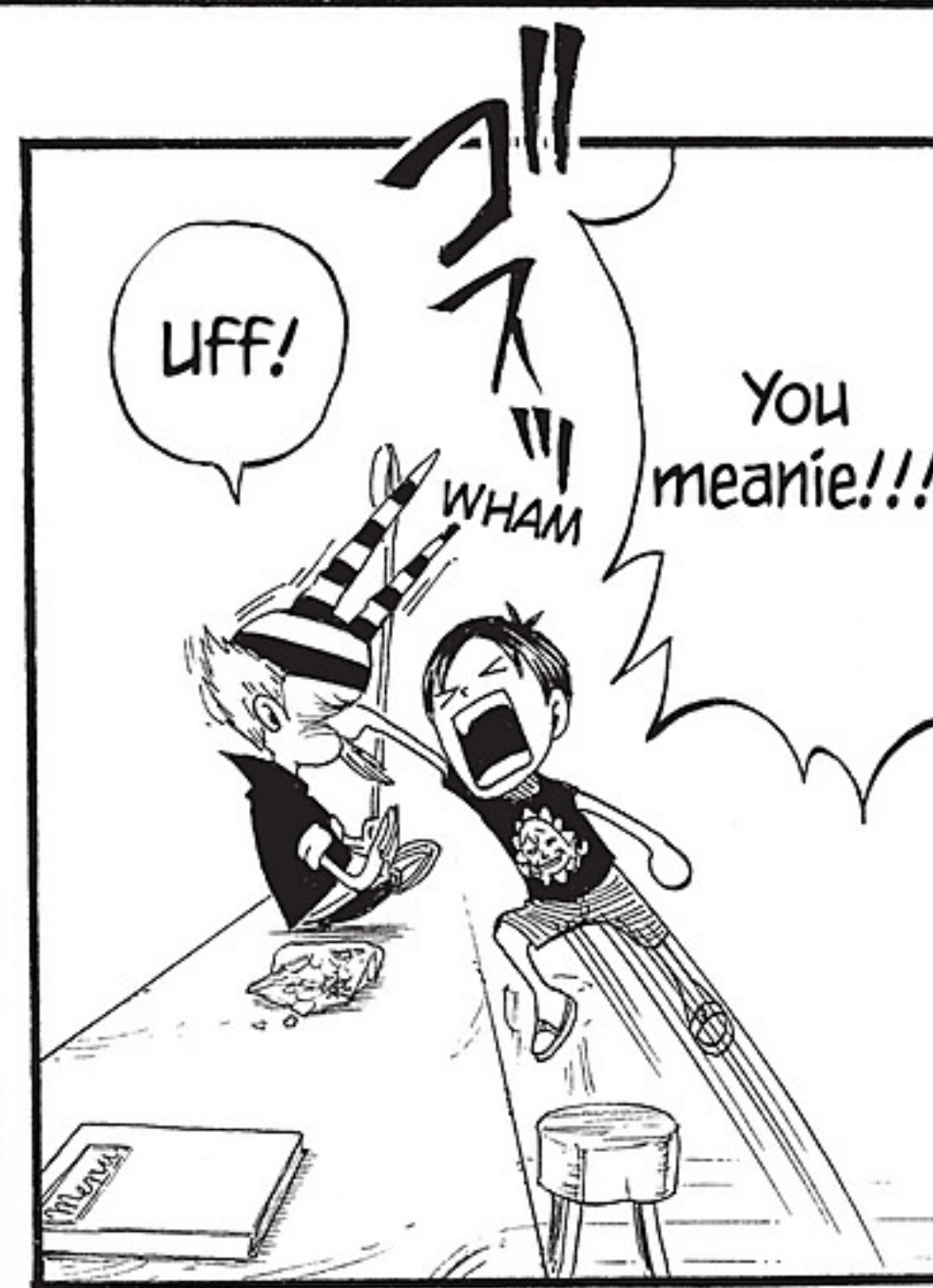
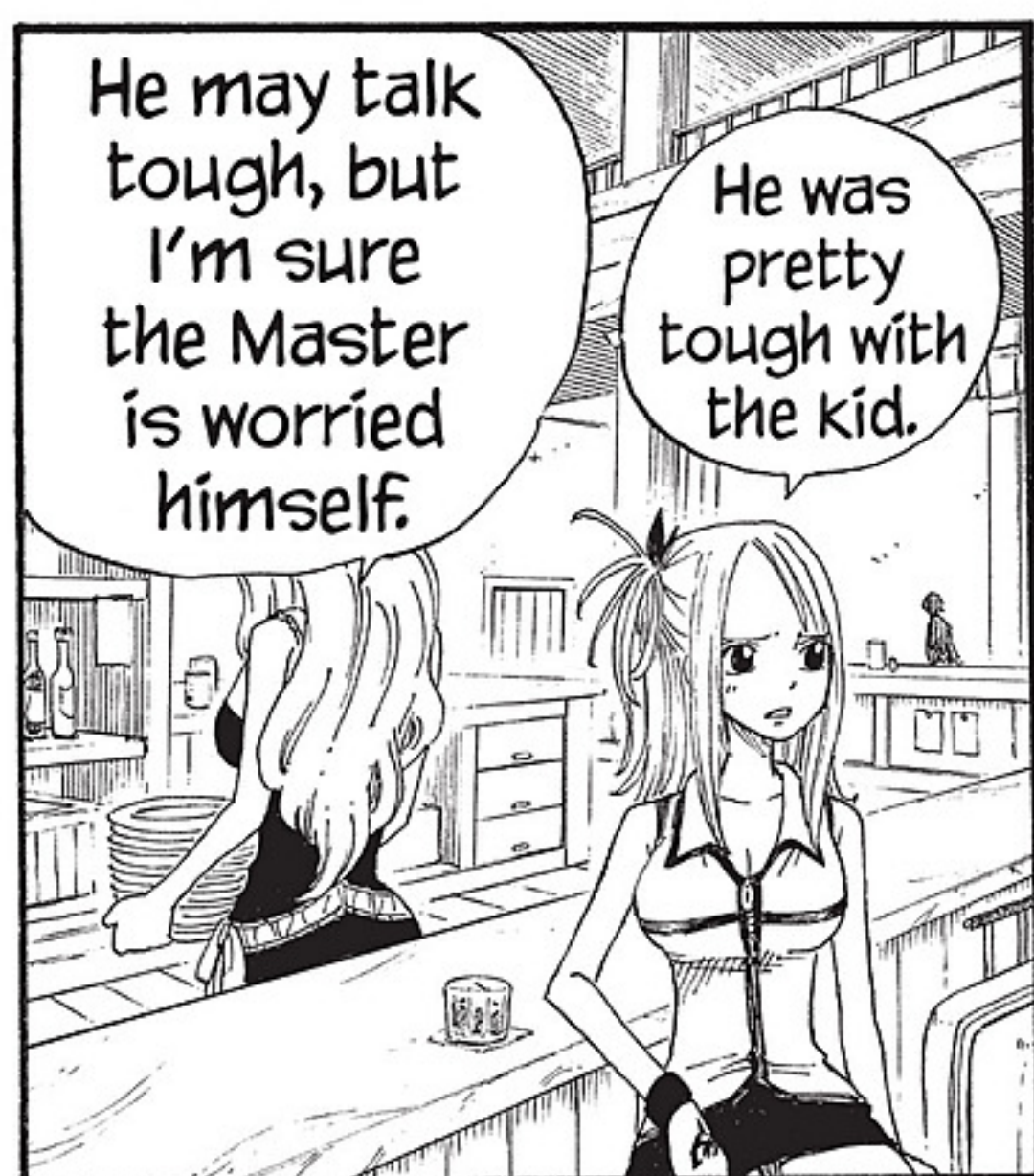
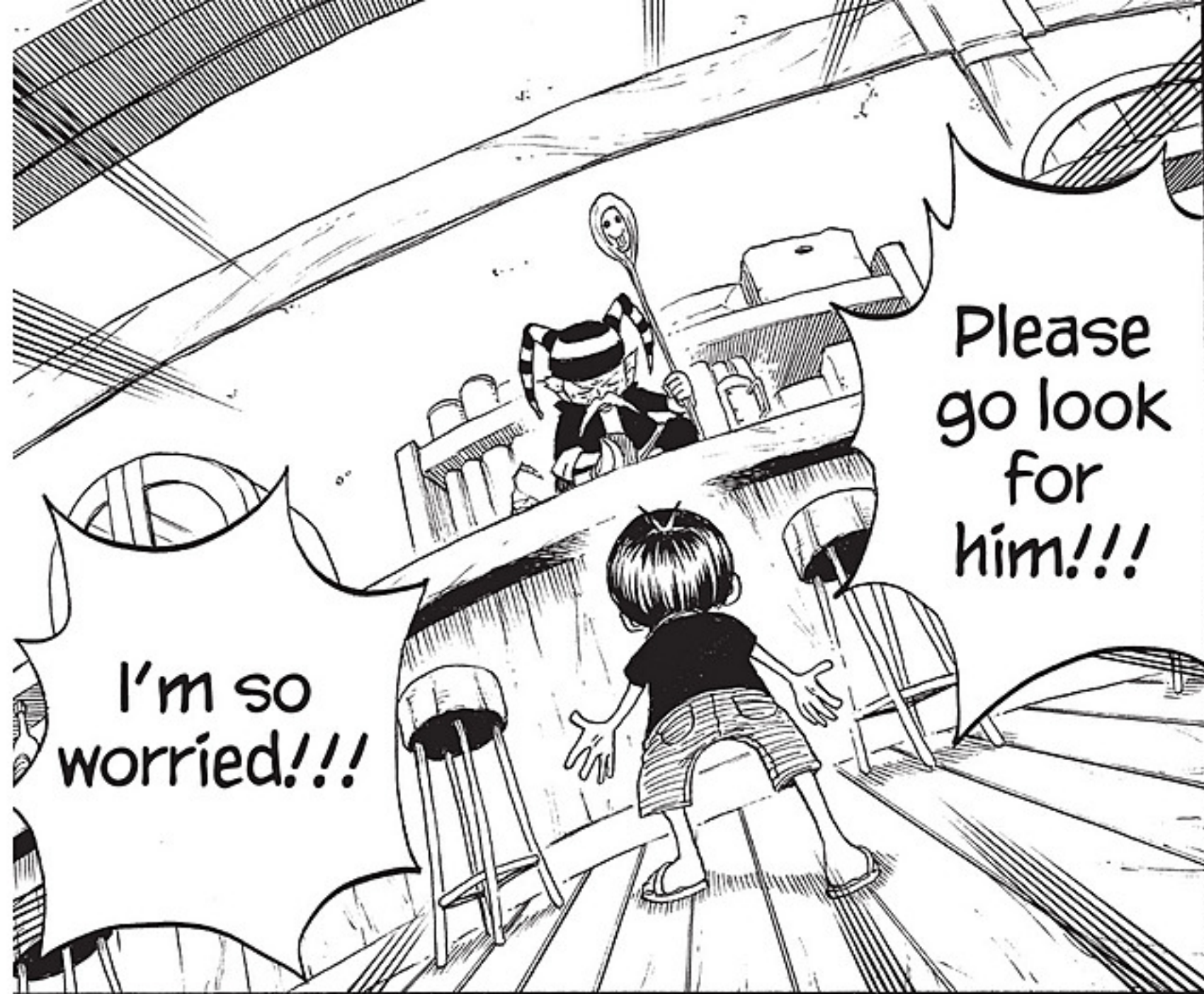
HEH

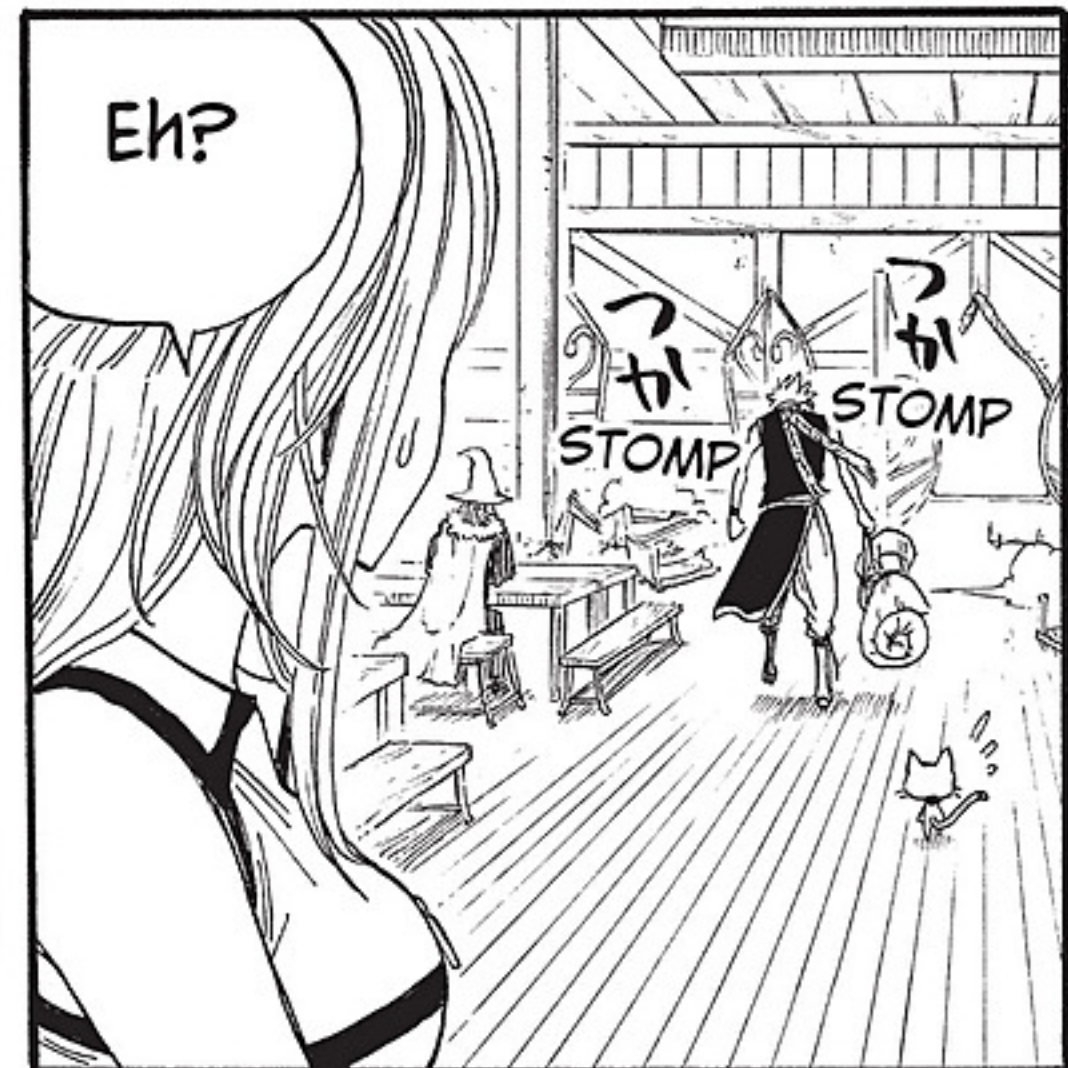
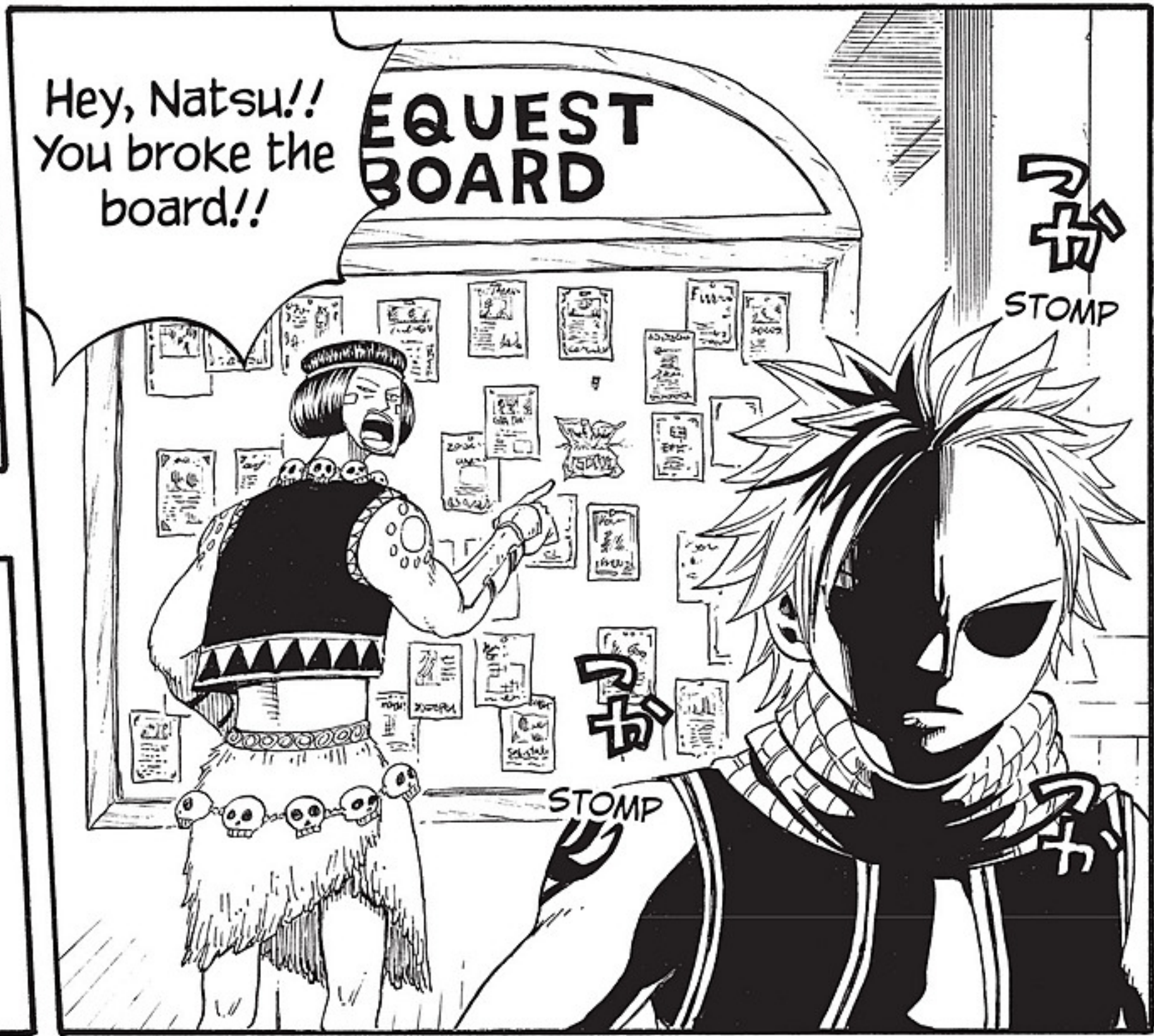
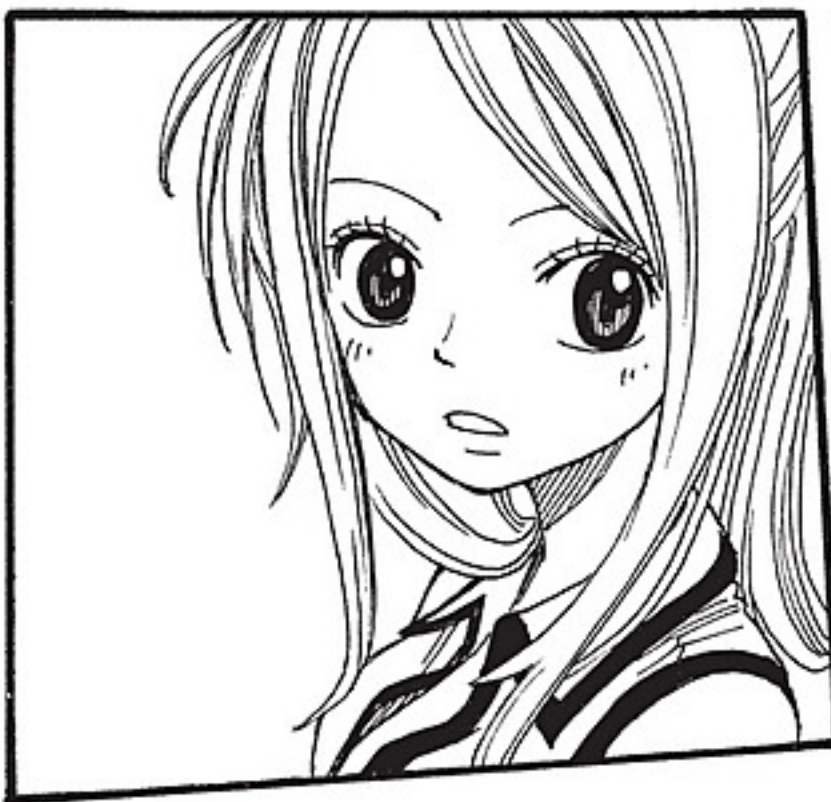
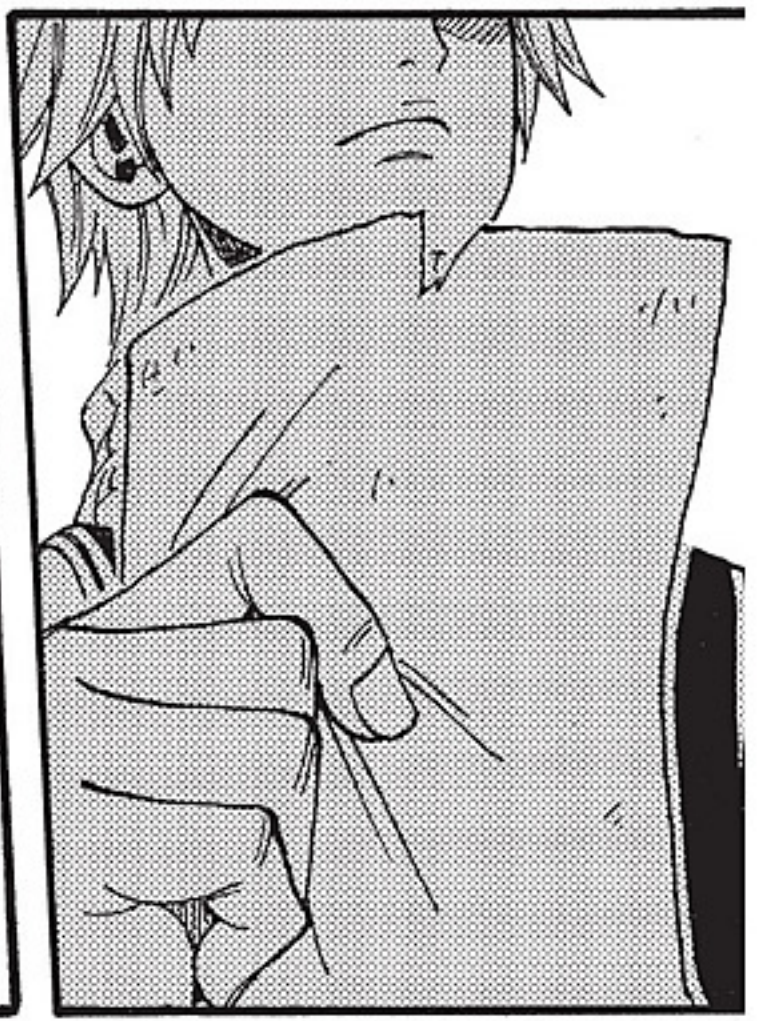
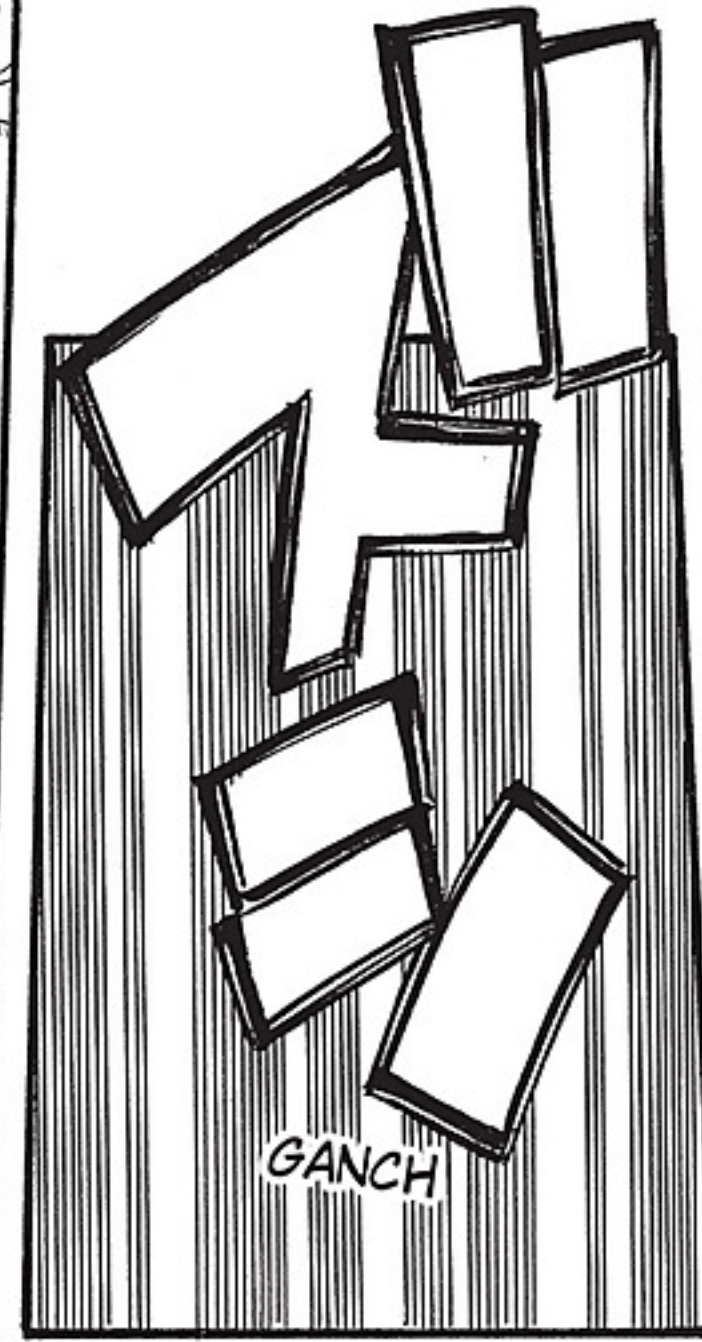
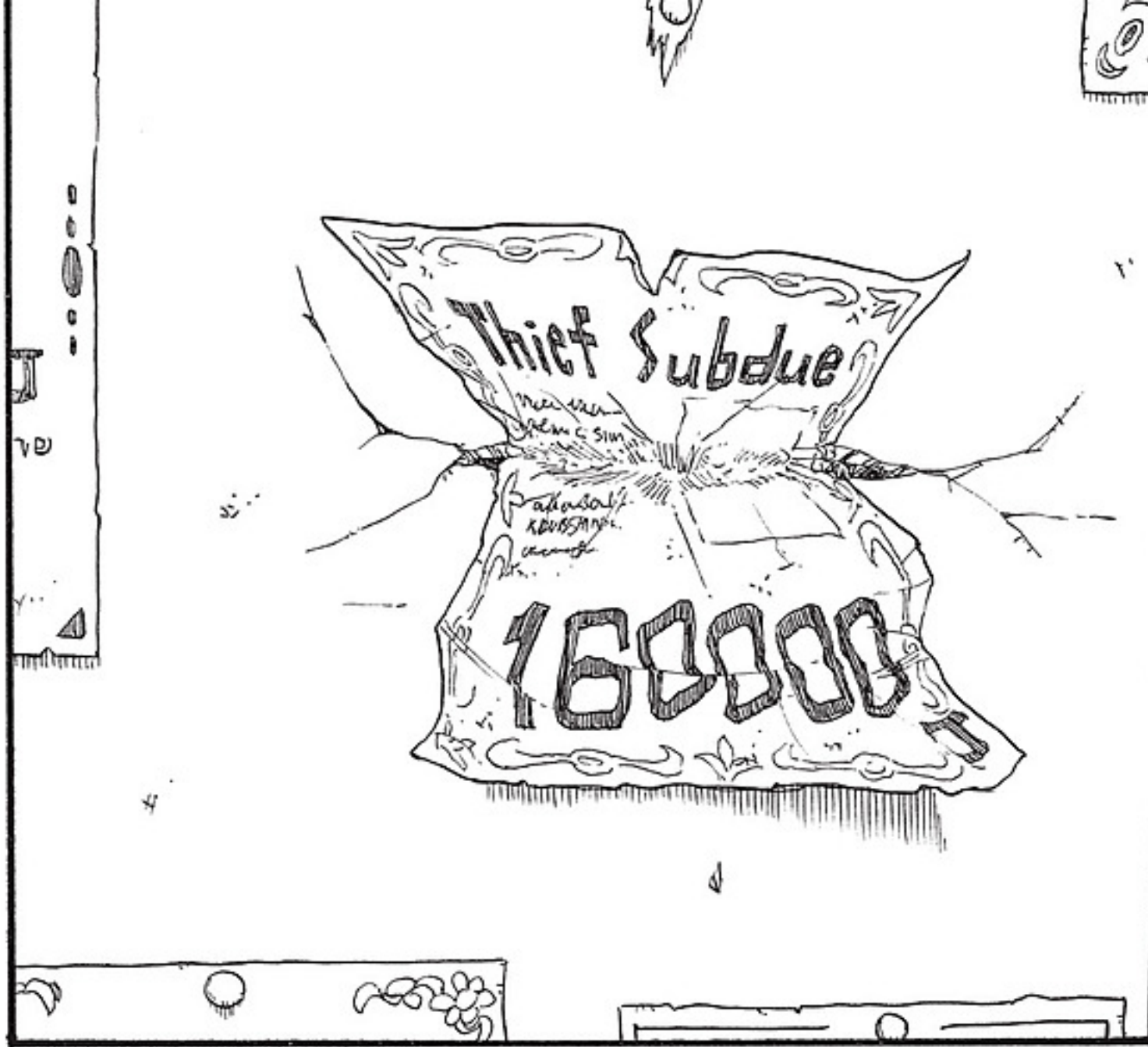


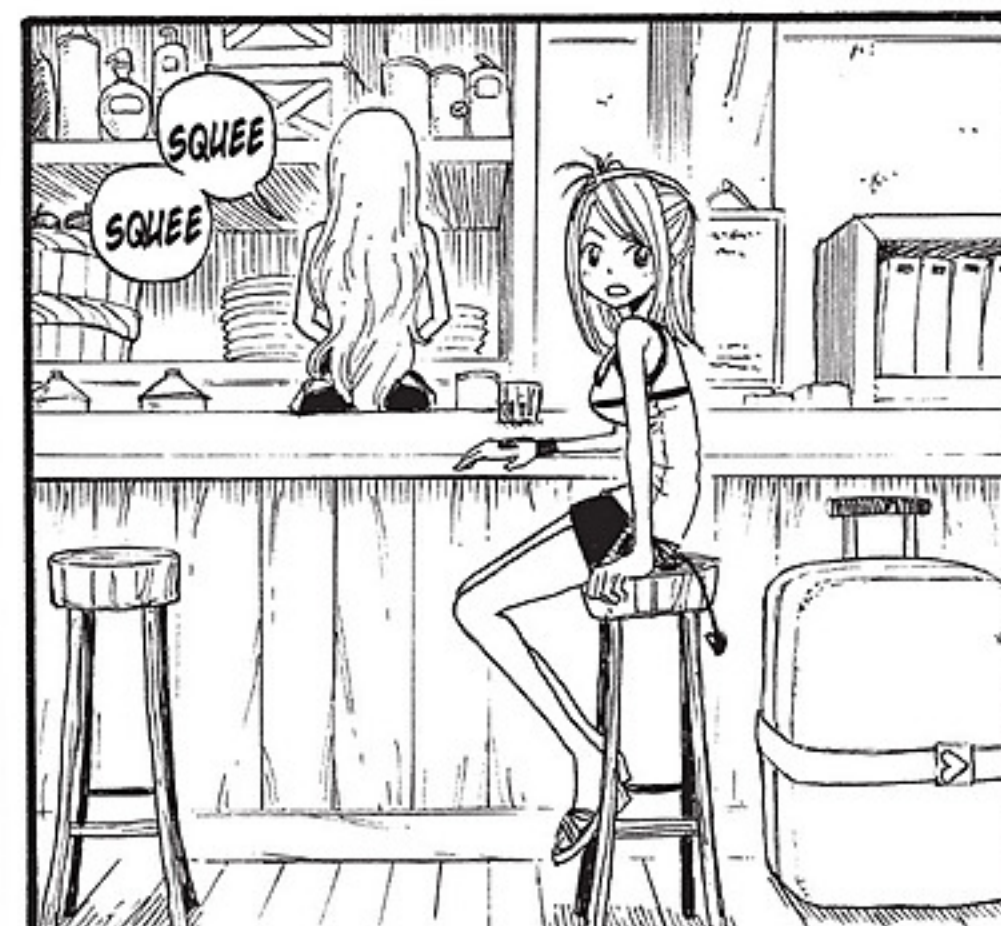
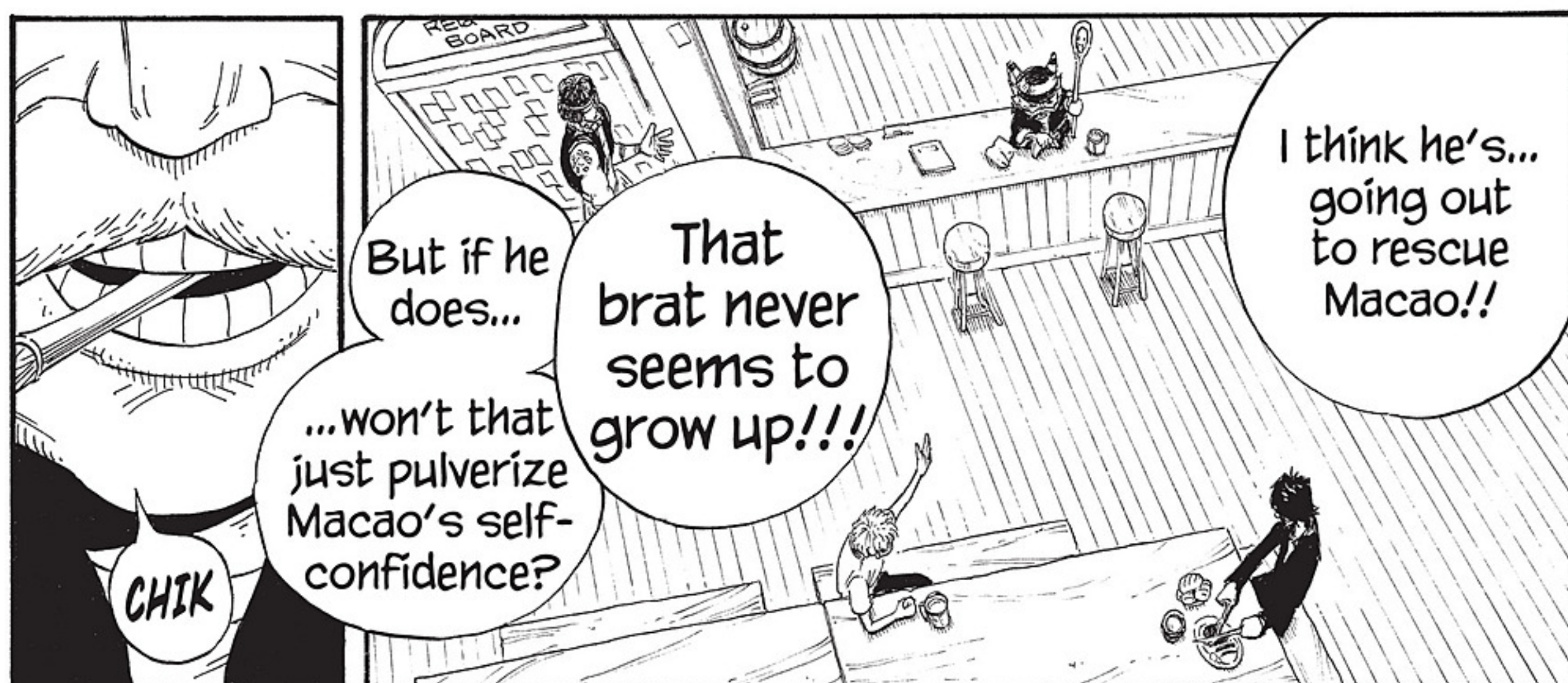


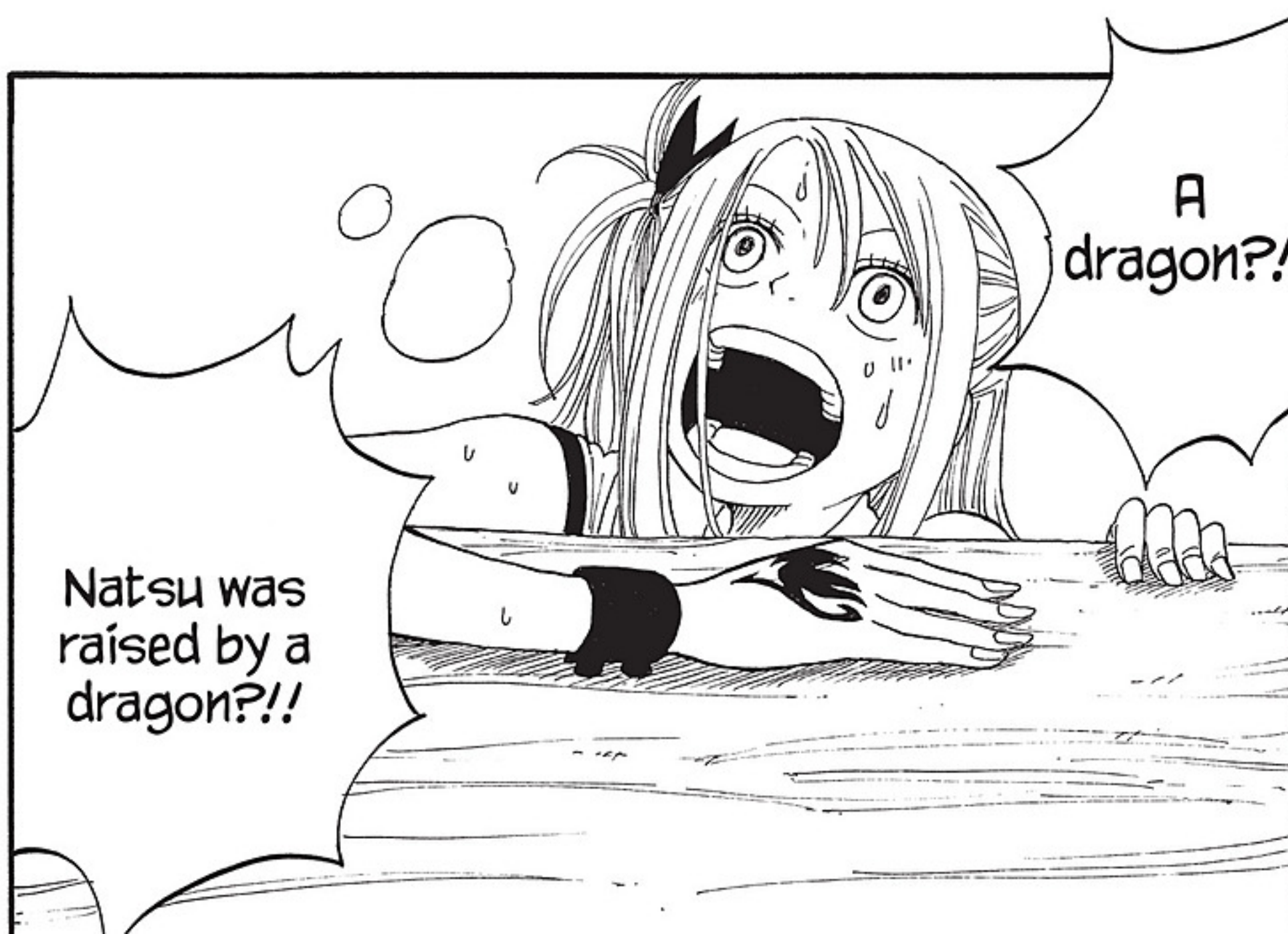
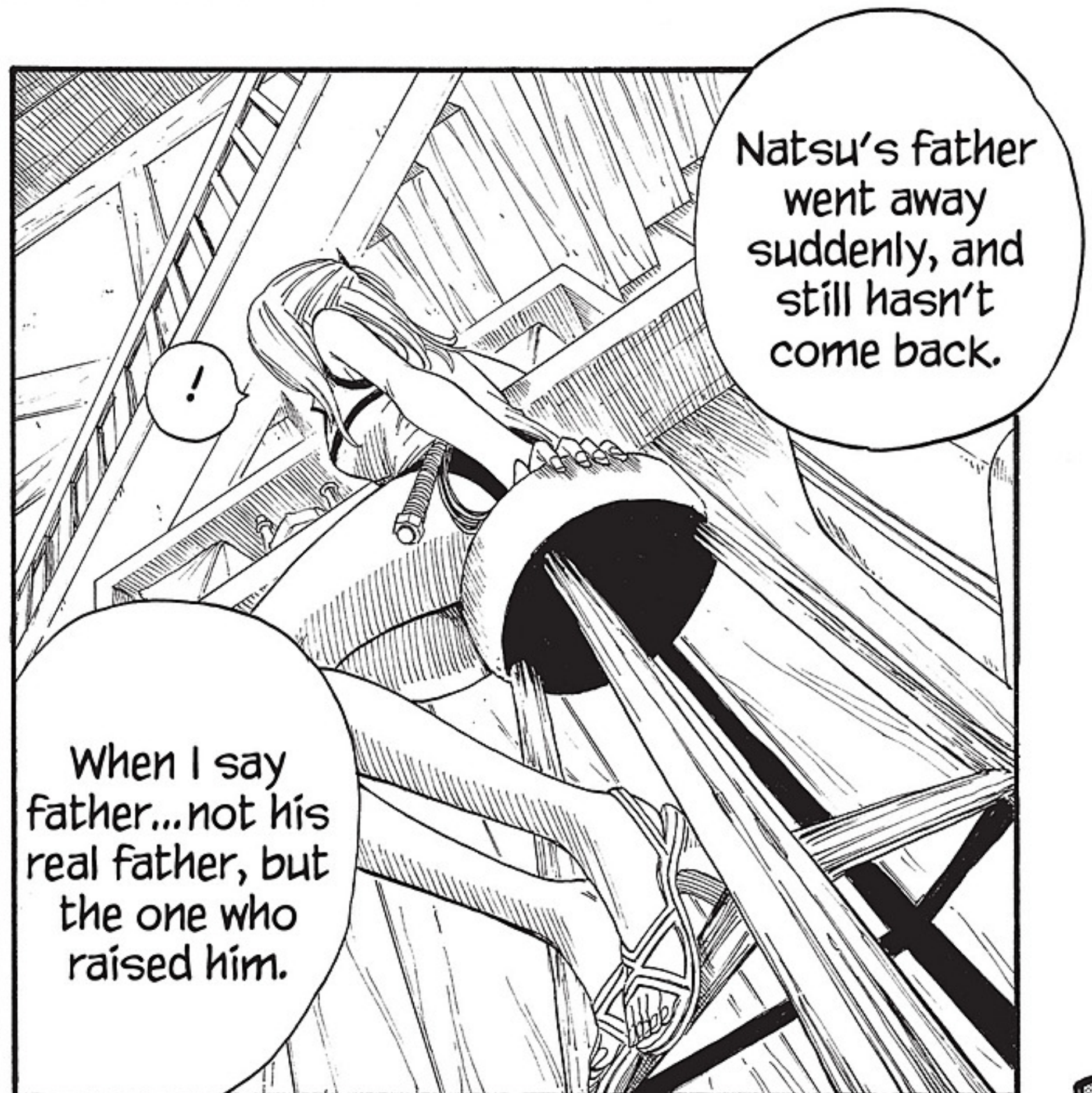
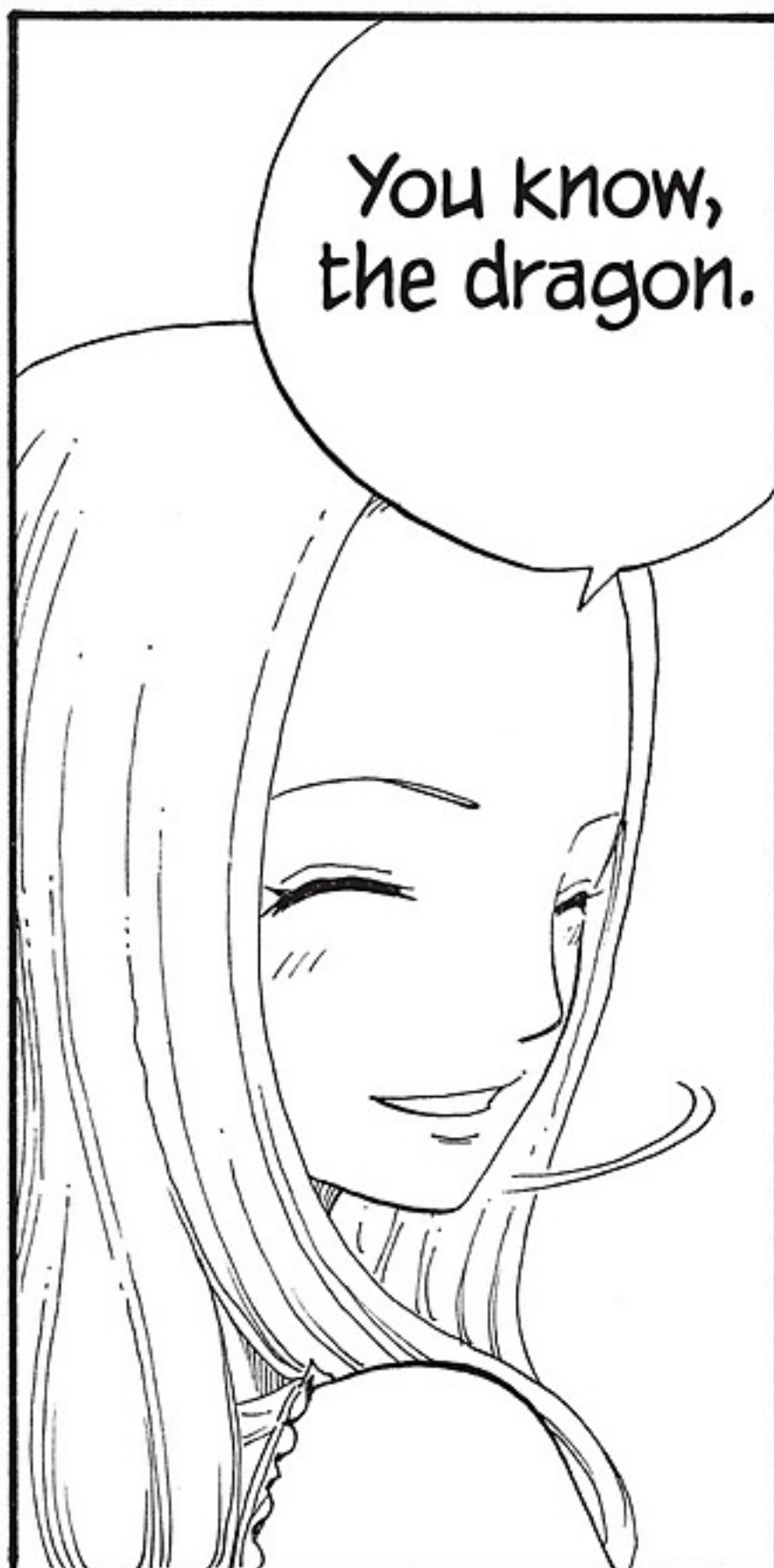
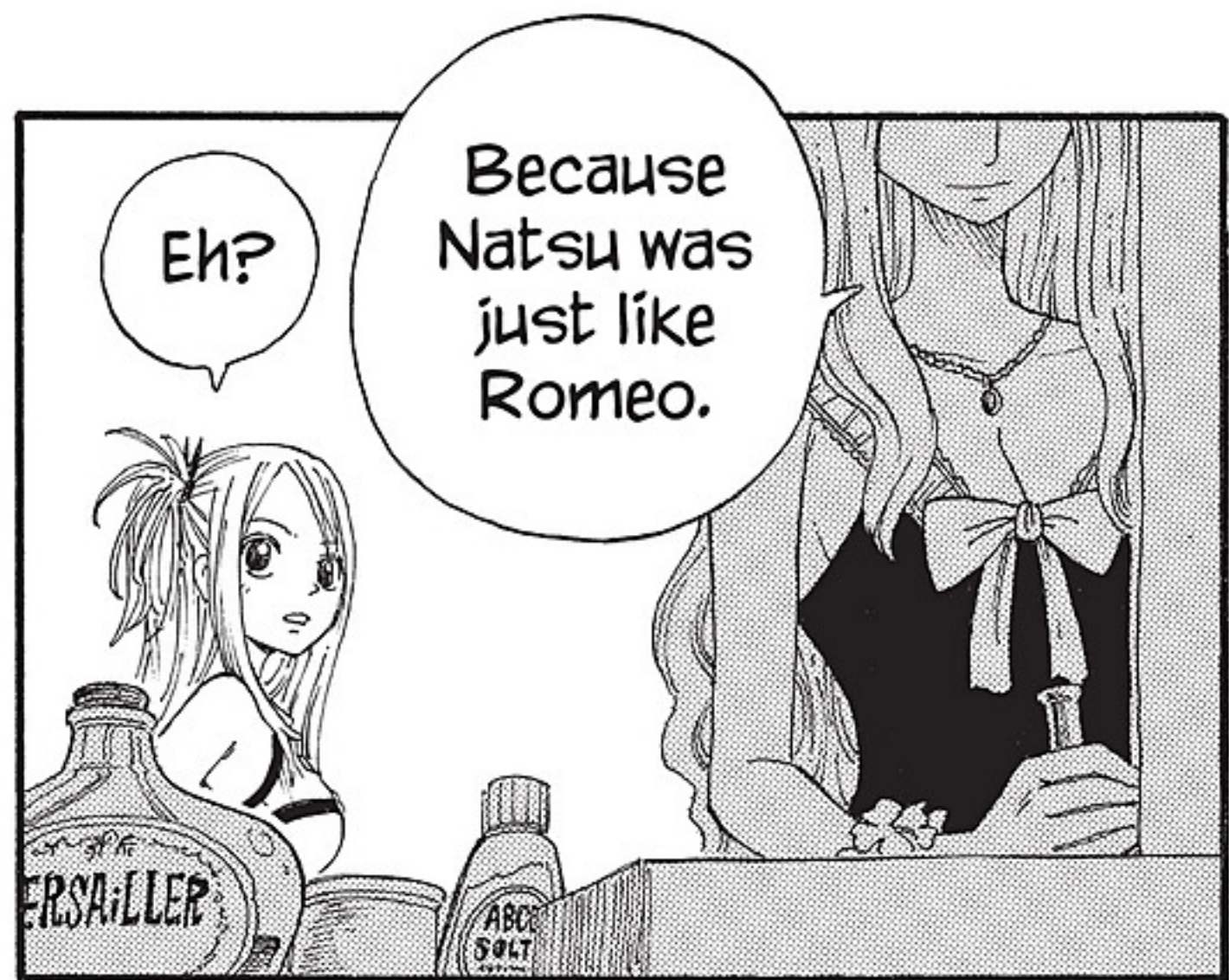
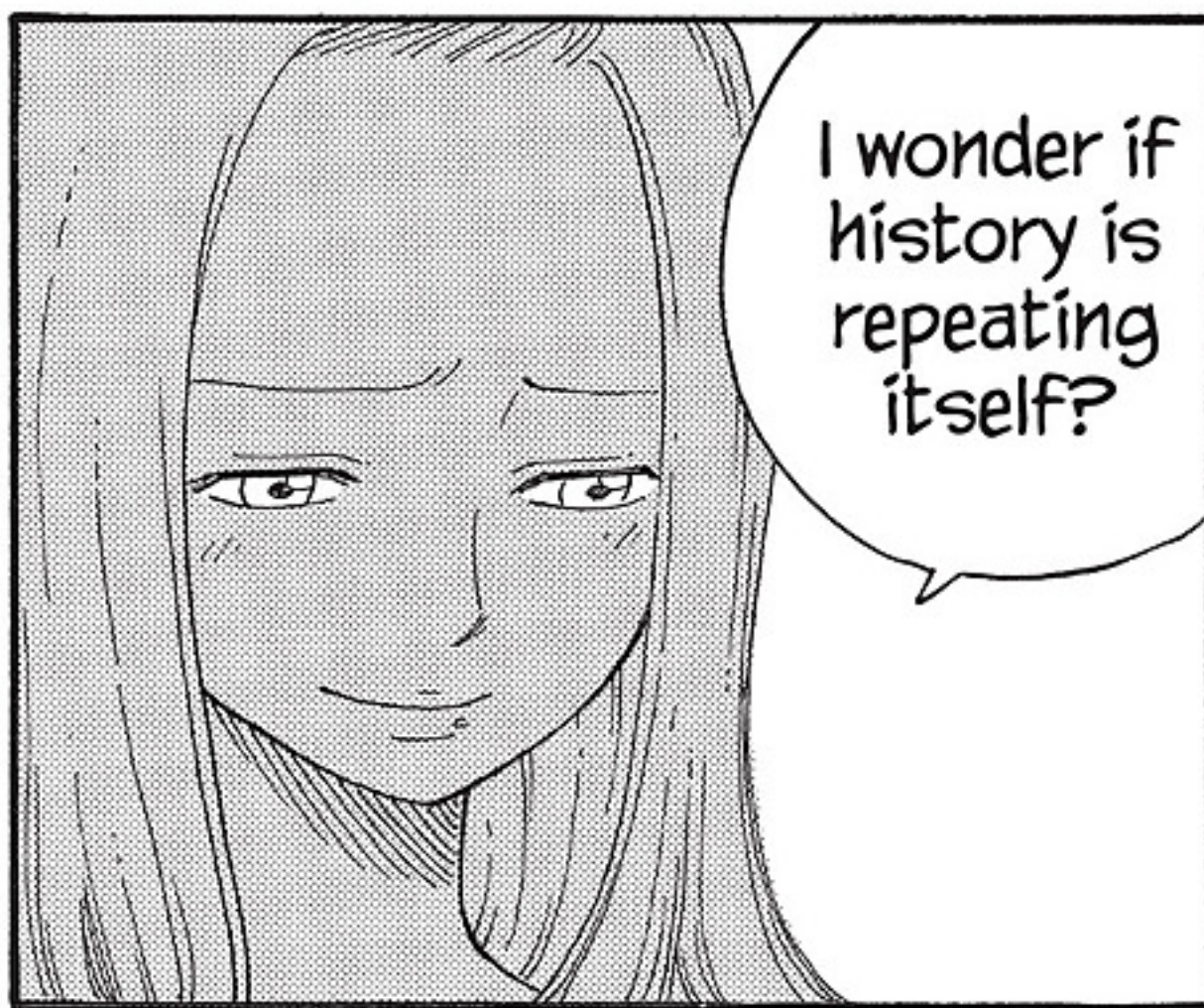






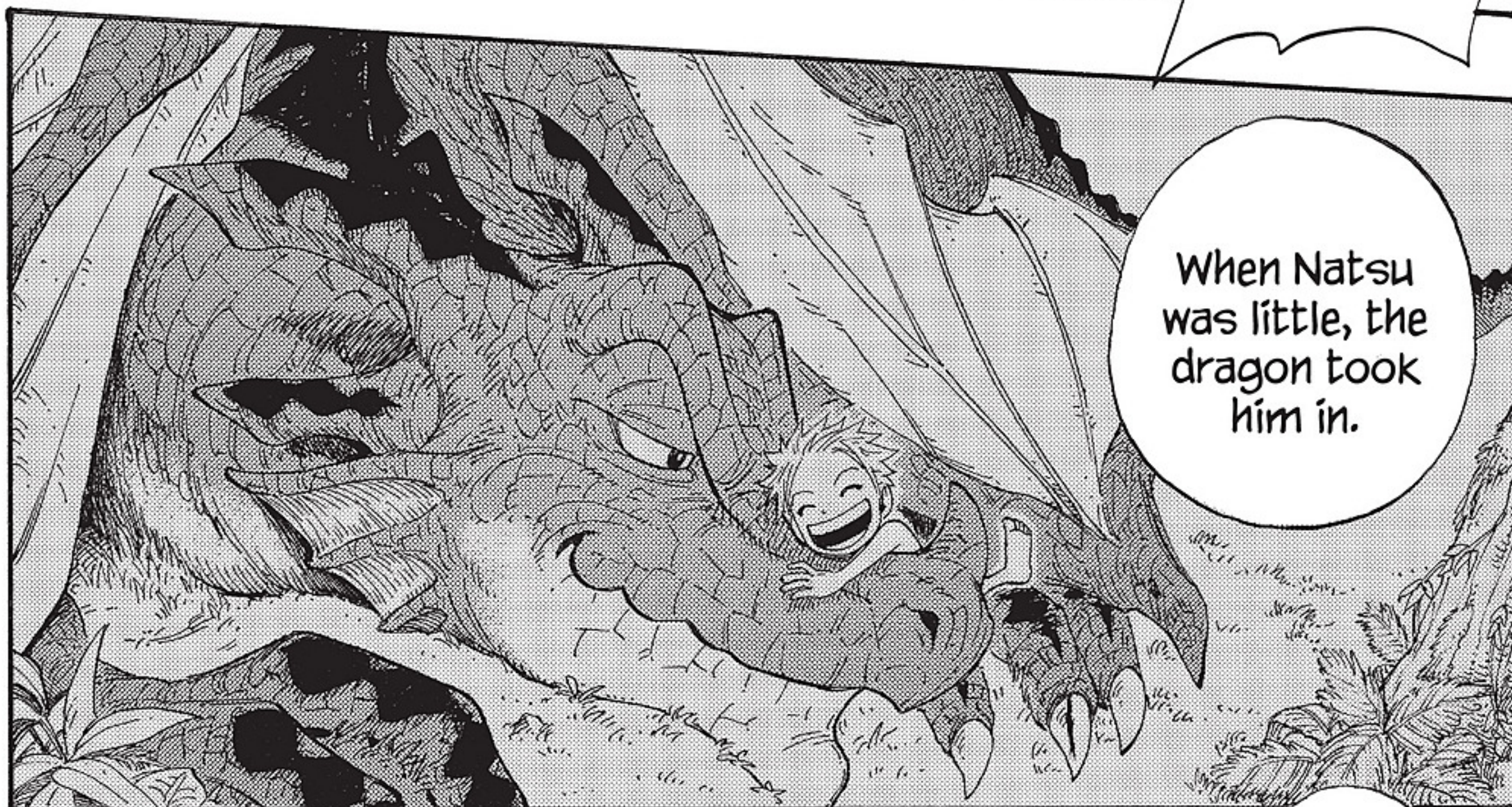




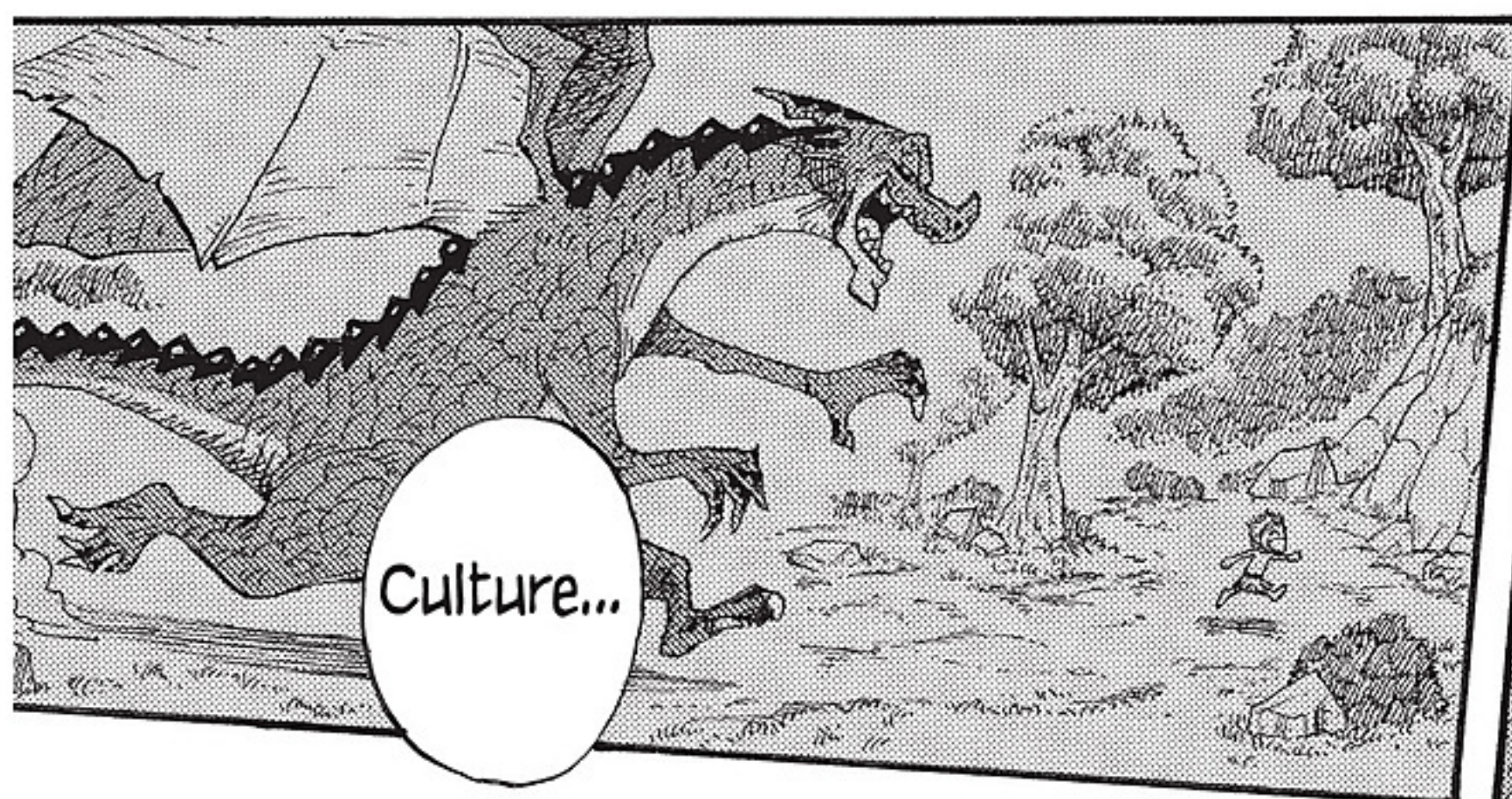


Listen...

How's anybody supposed to believe that?!!



When Natsu was little, the dragon took him in.

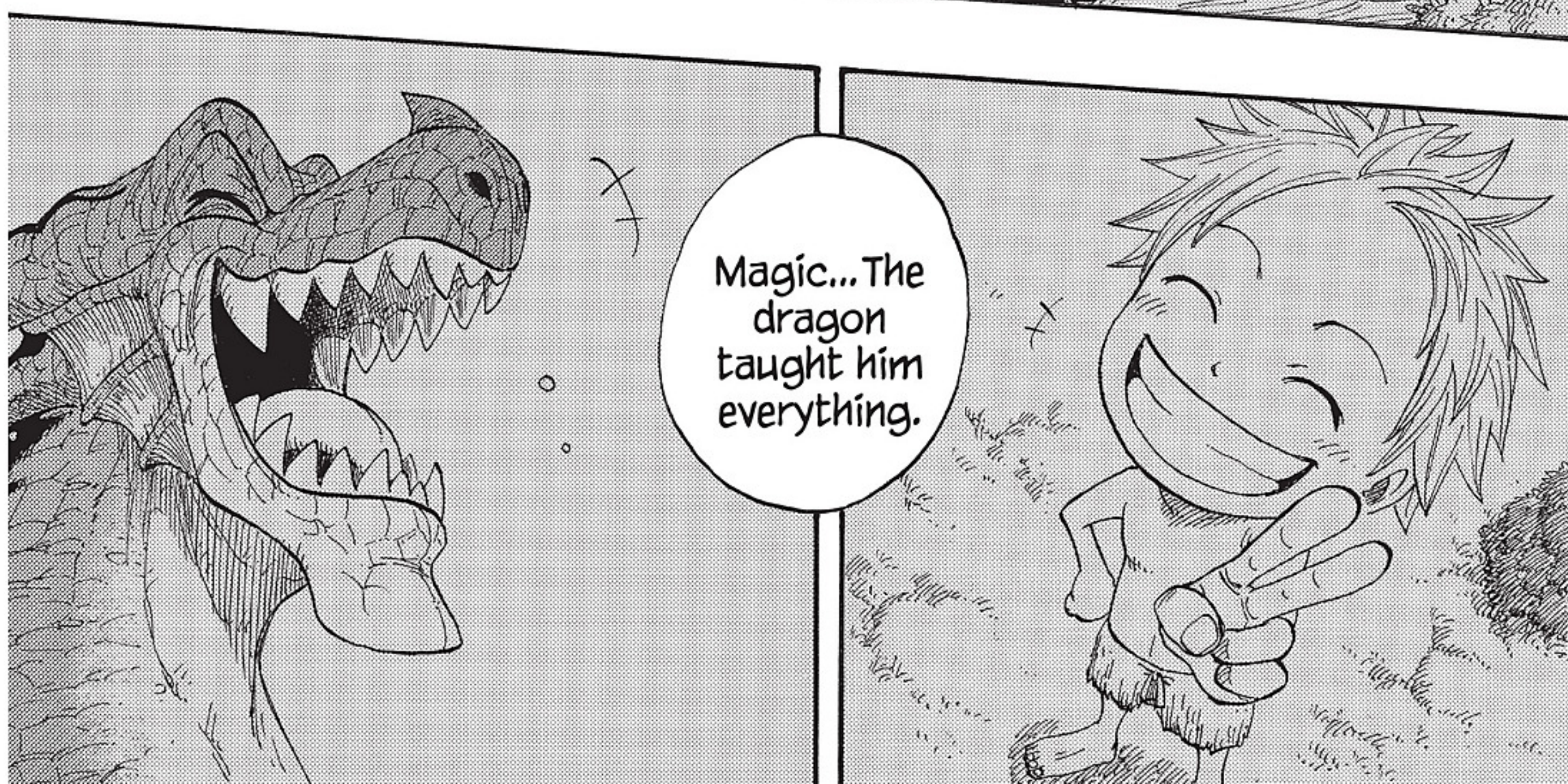


Culture...

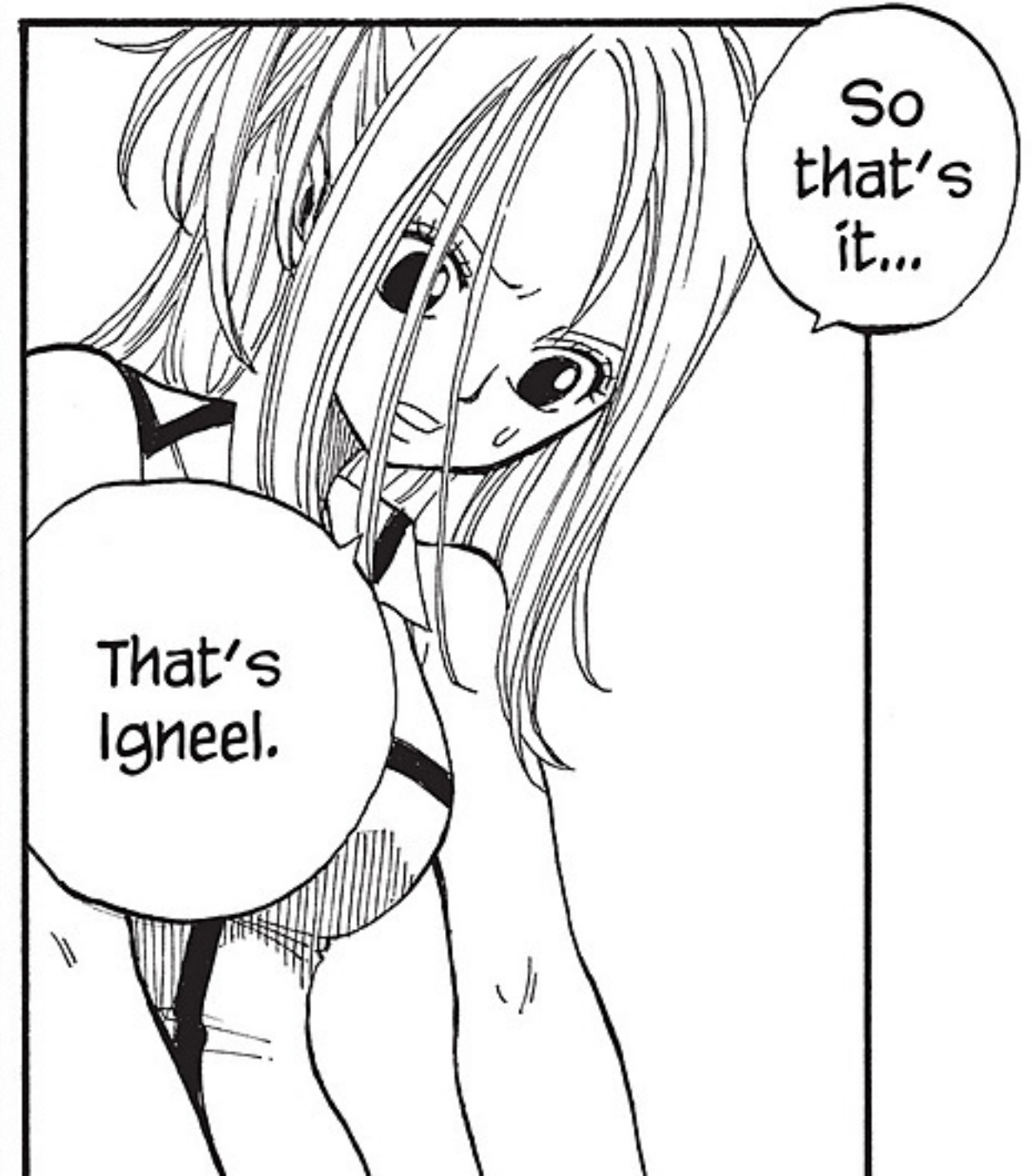
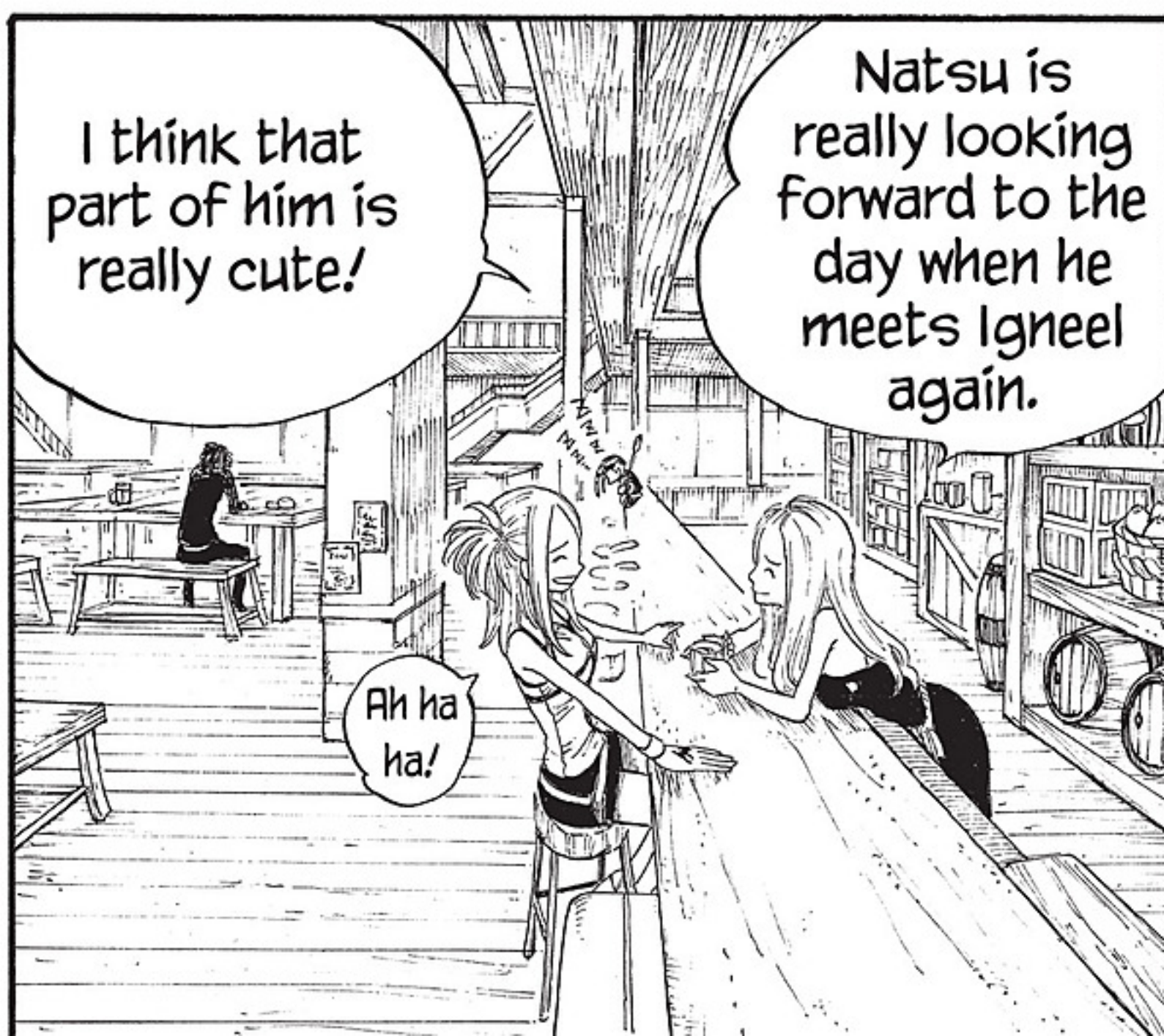
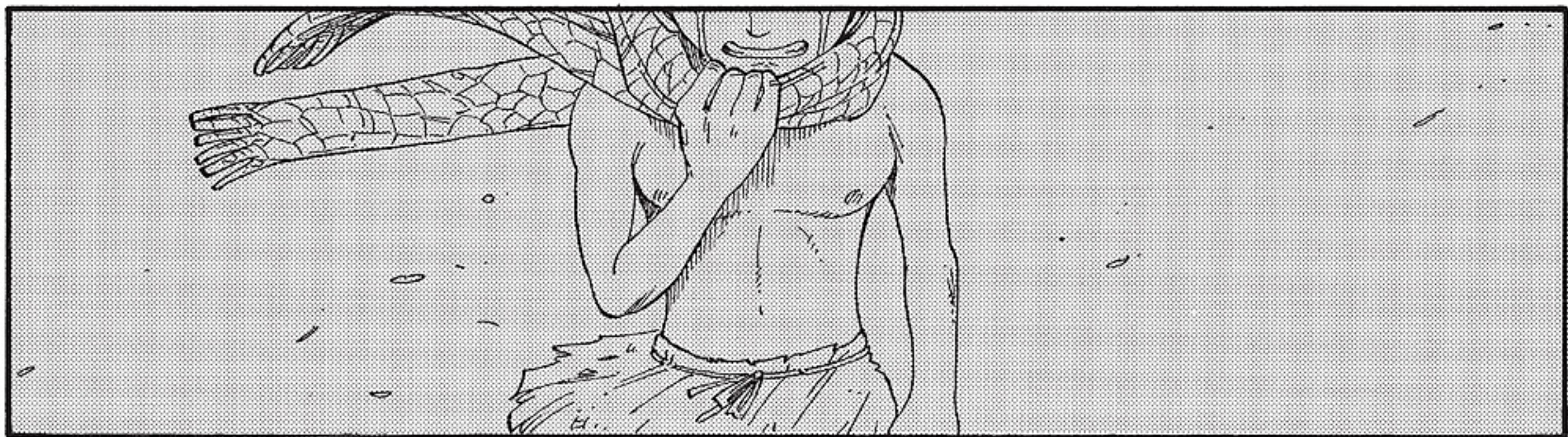


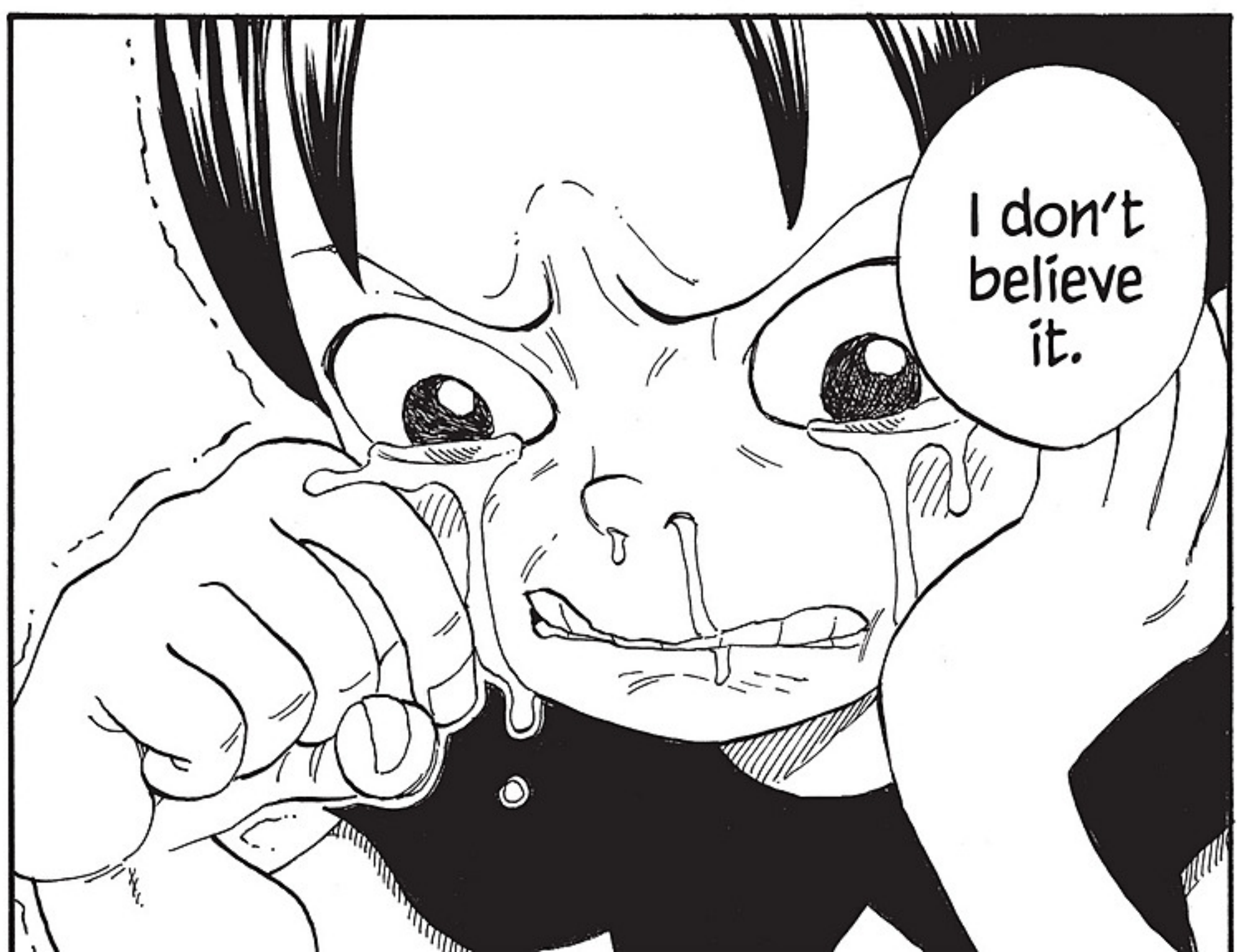
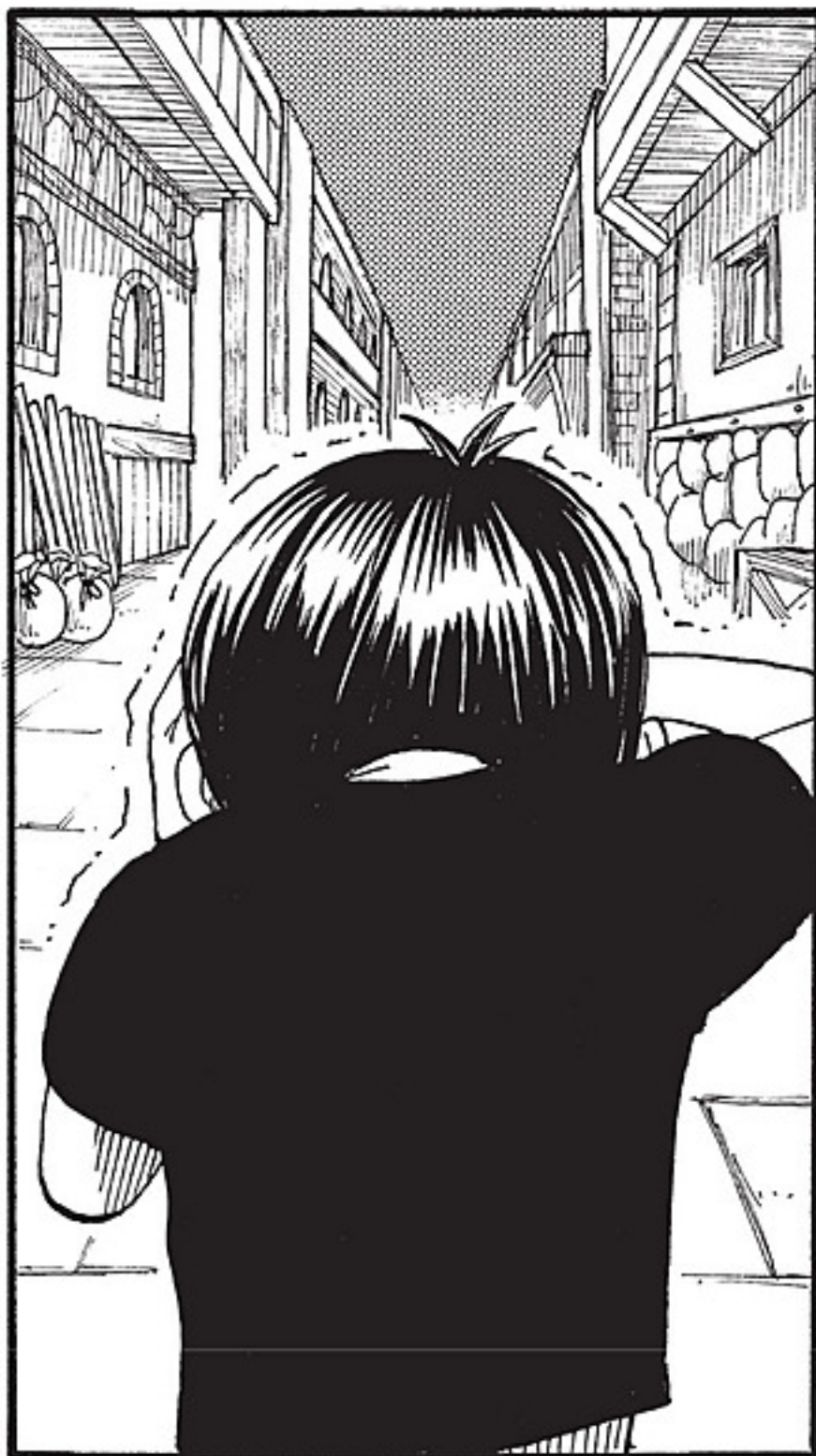
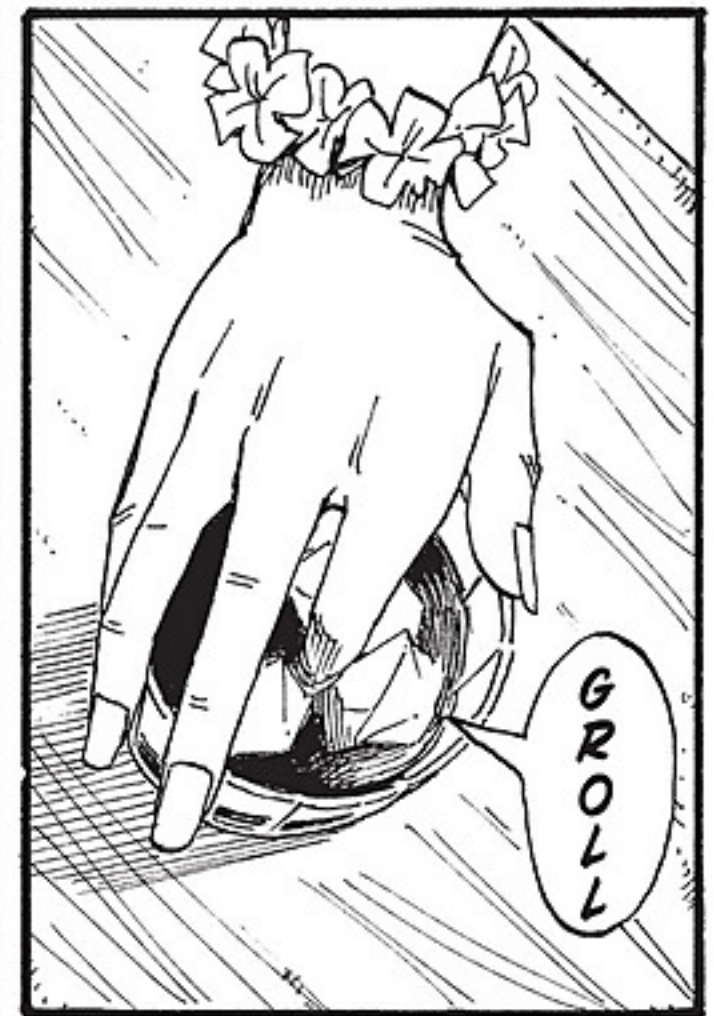
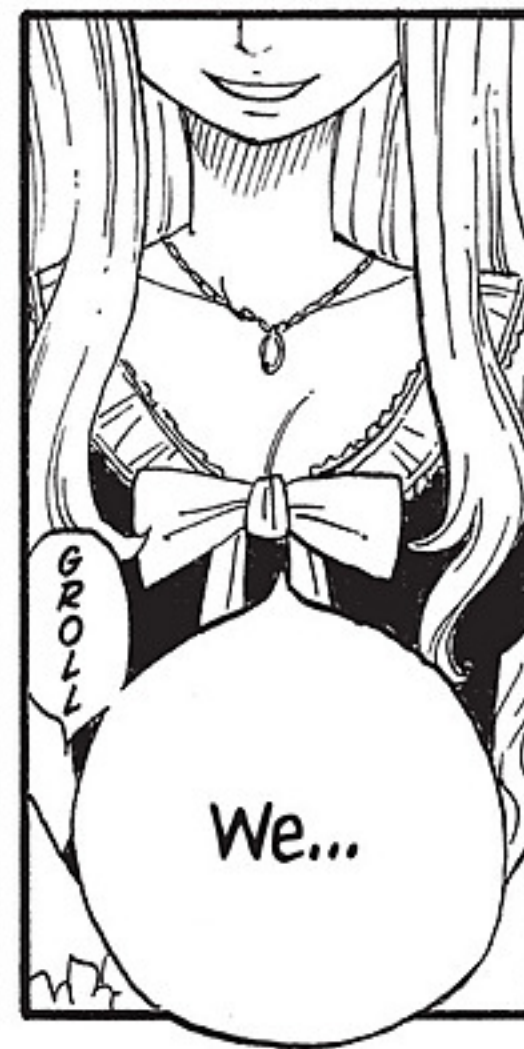
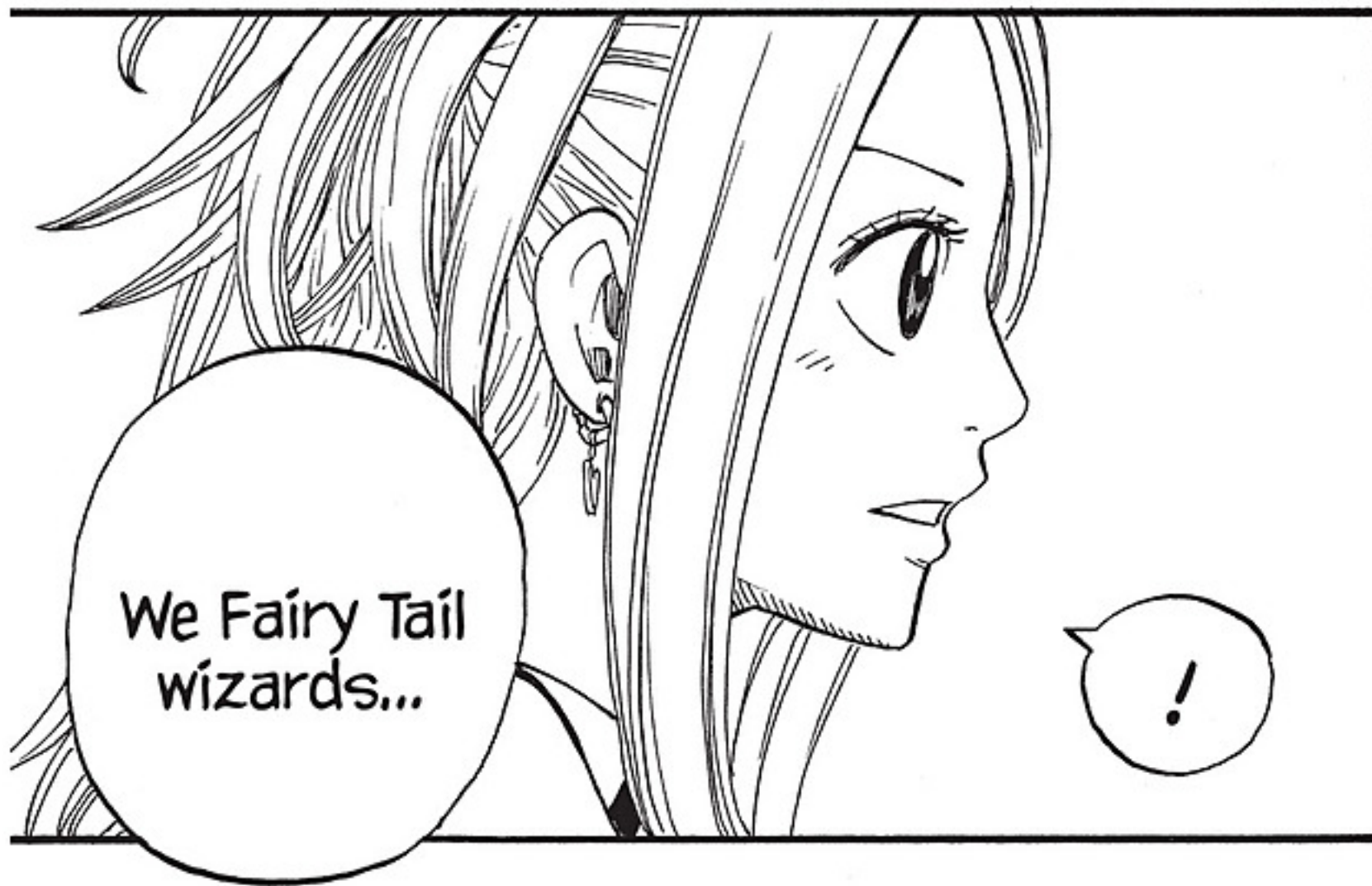
Taught him speech.

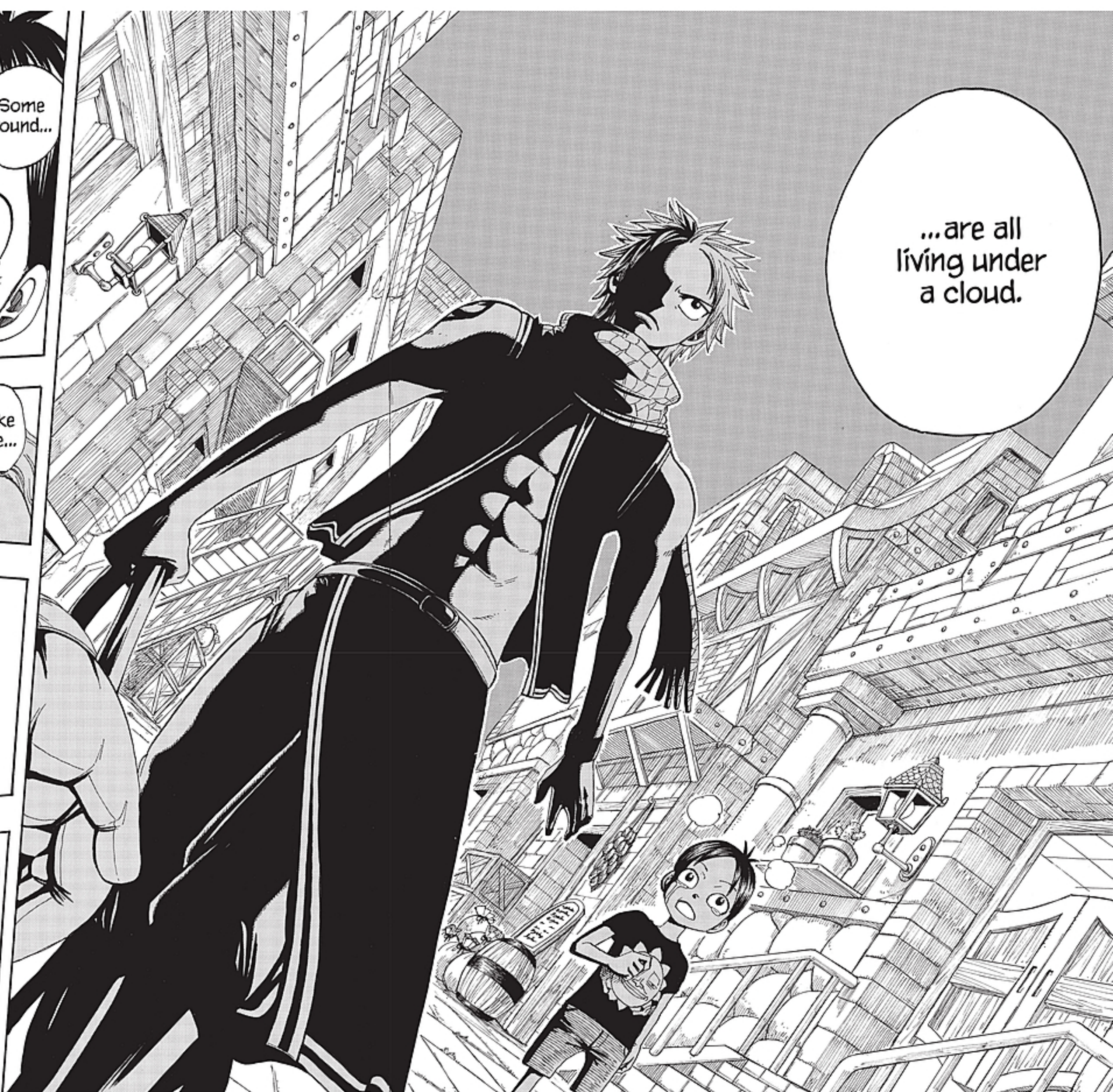
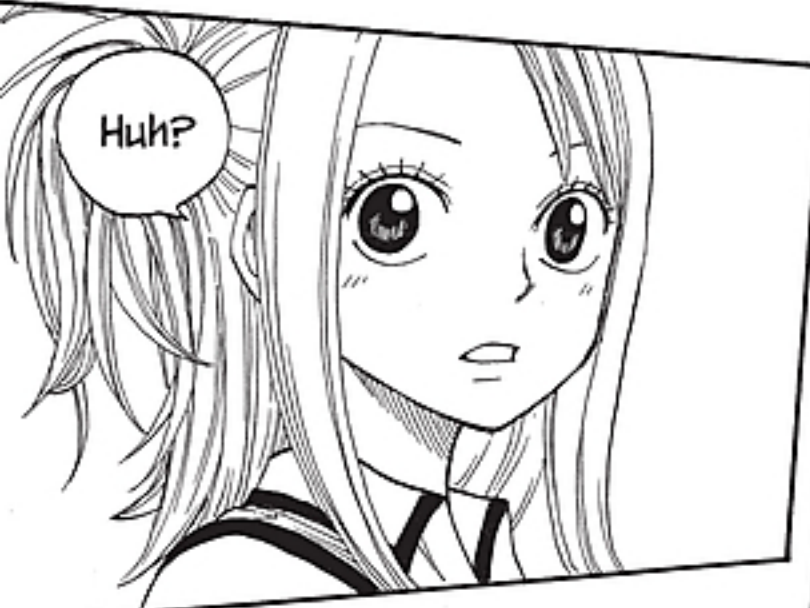
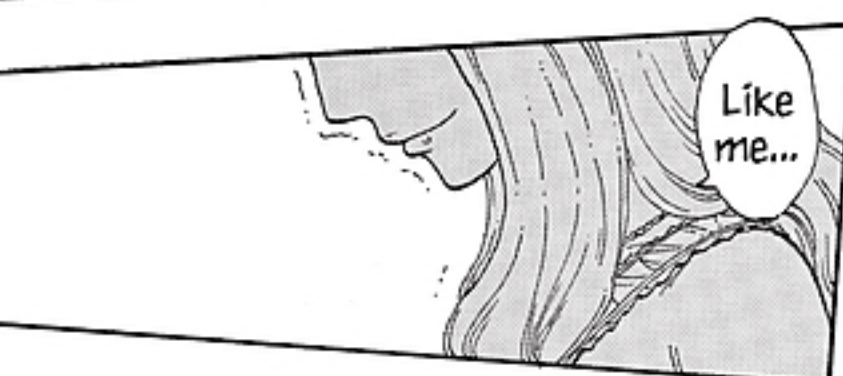
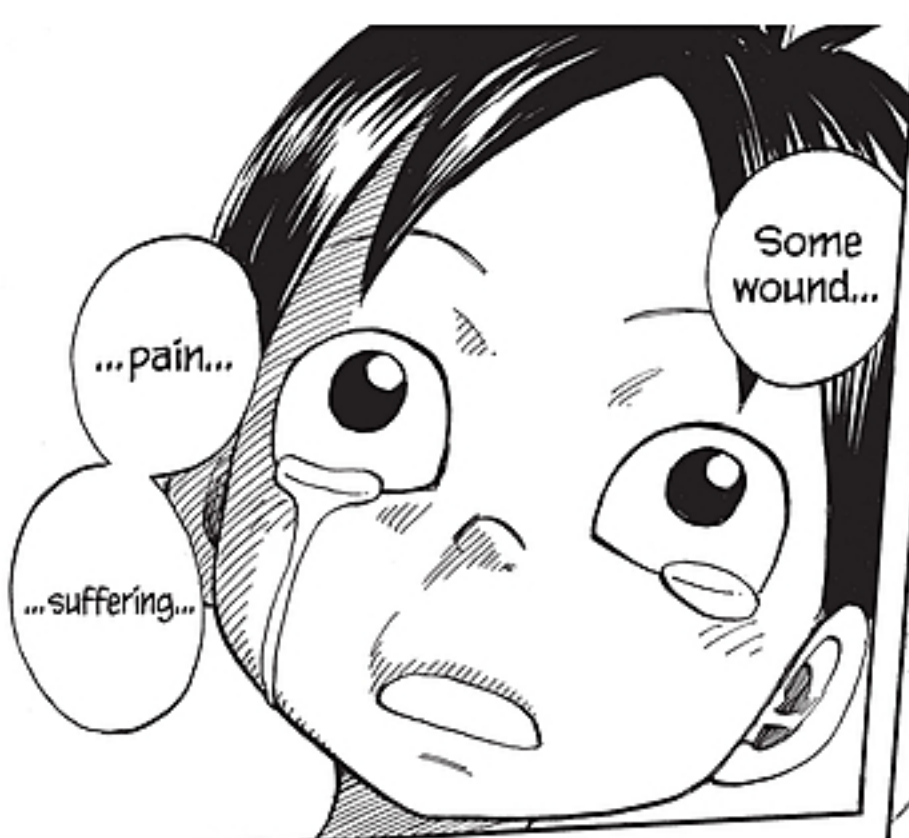
E!

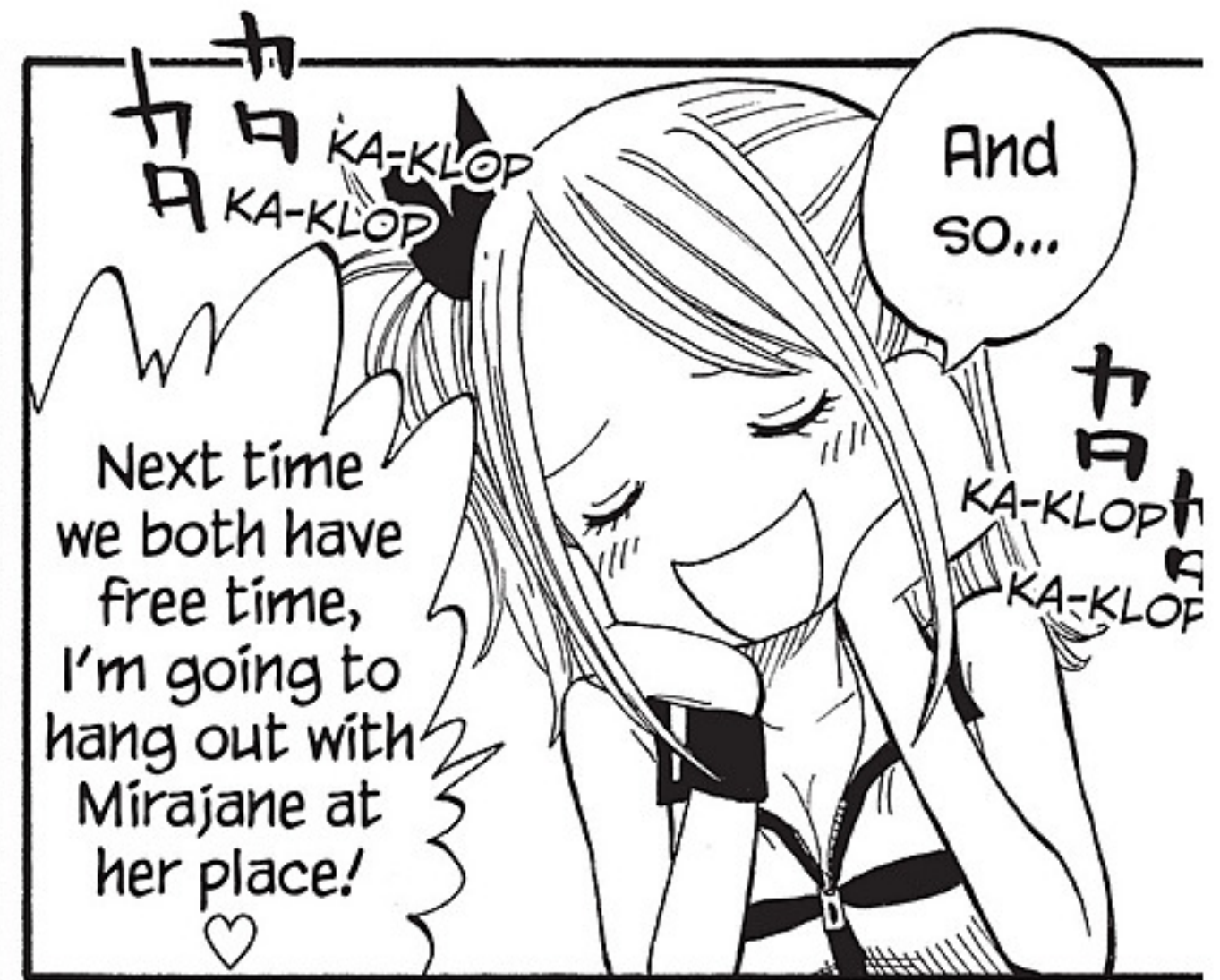
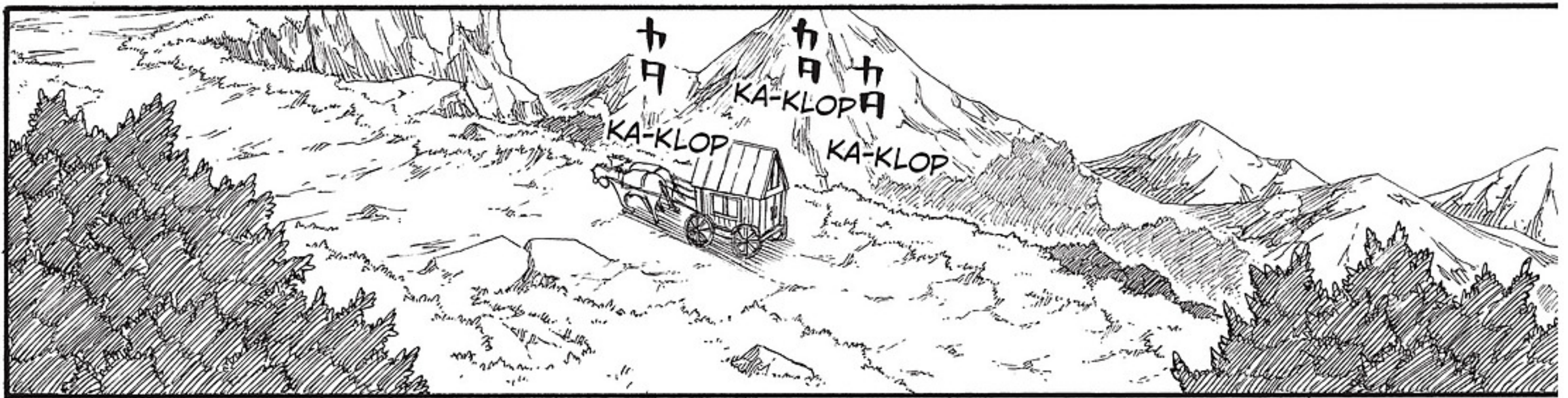
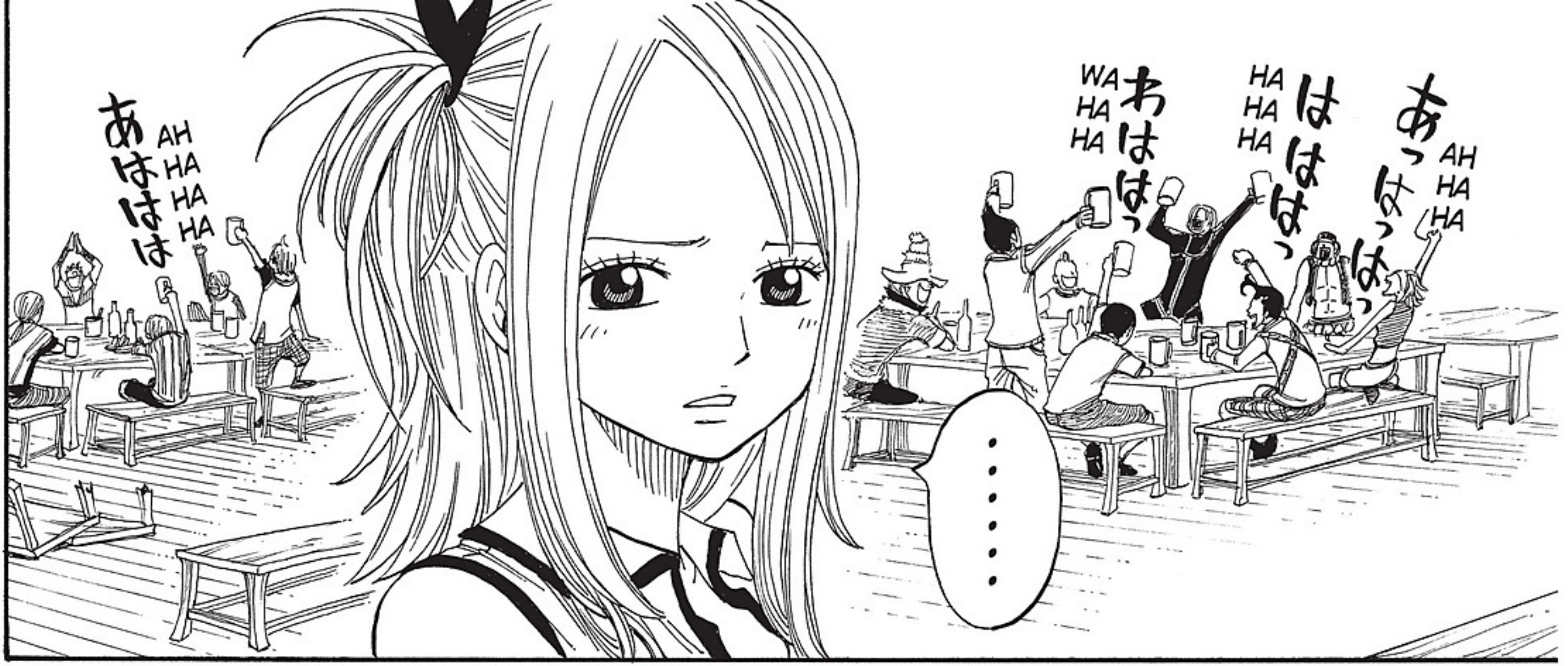


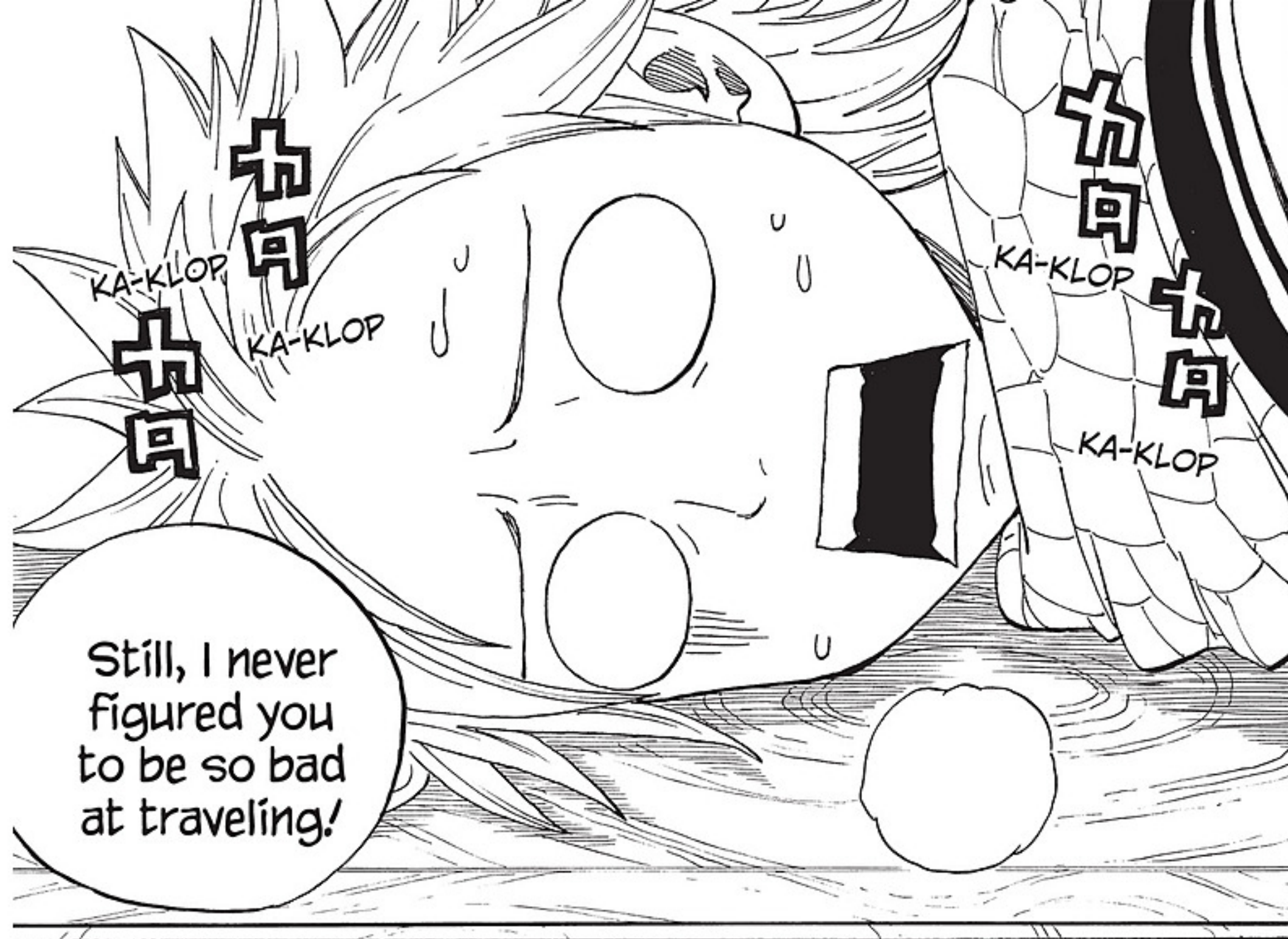
Magic... The dragon taught him everything.











Well, I finally made it to Fairy Tail, and I was hoping that I could be of some use!

You see?

And I figured that this would raise my stock with the place! I'm sure of it!!



You can live with us at Natsu's place.

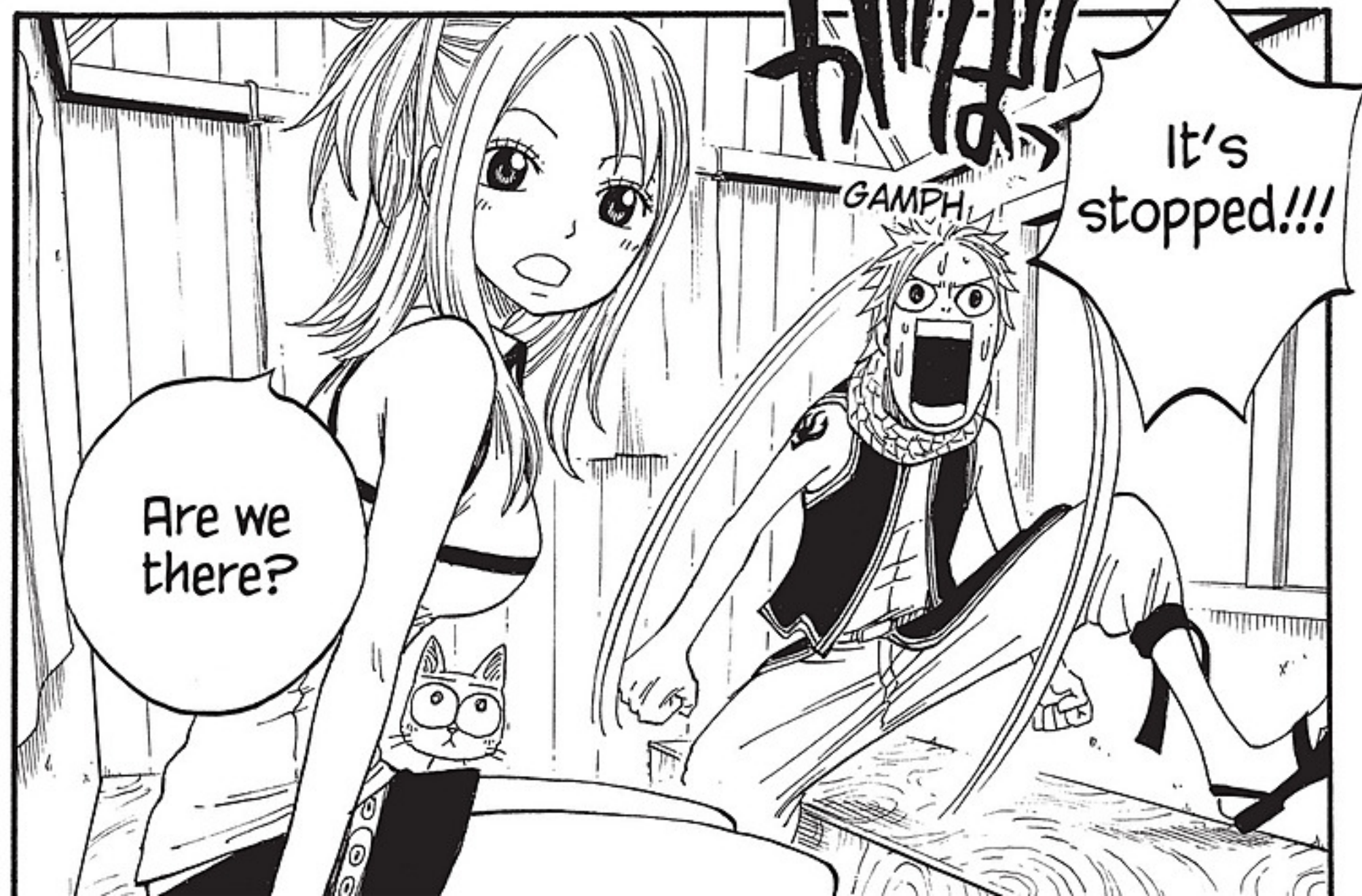
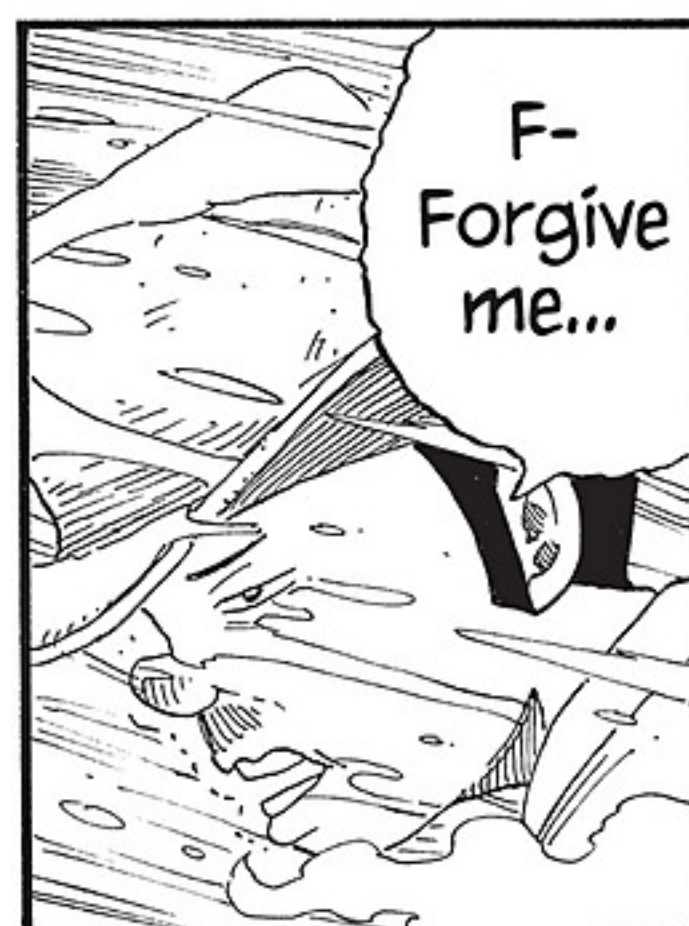
If I thought you were serious, I'd pull your whiskers out, kitty cat.

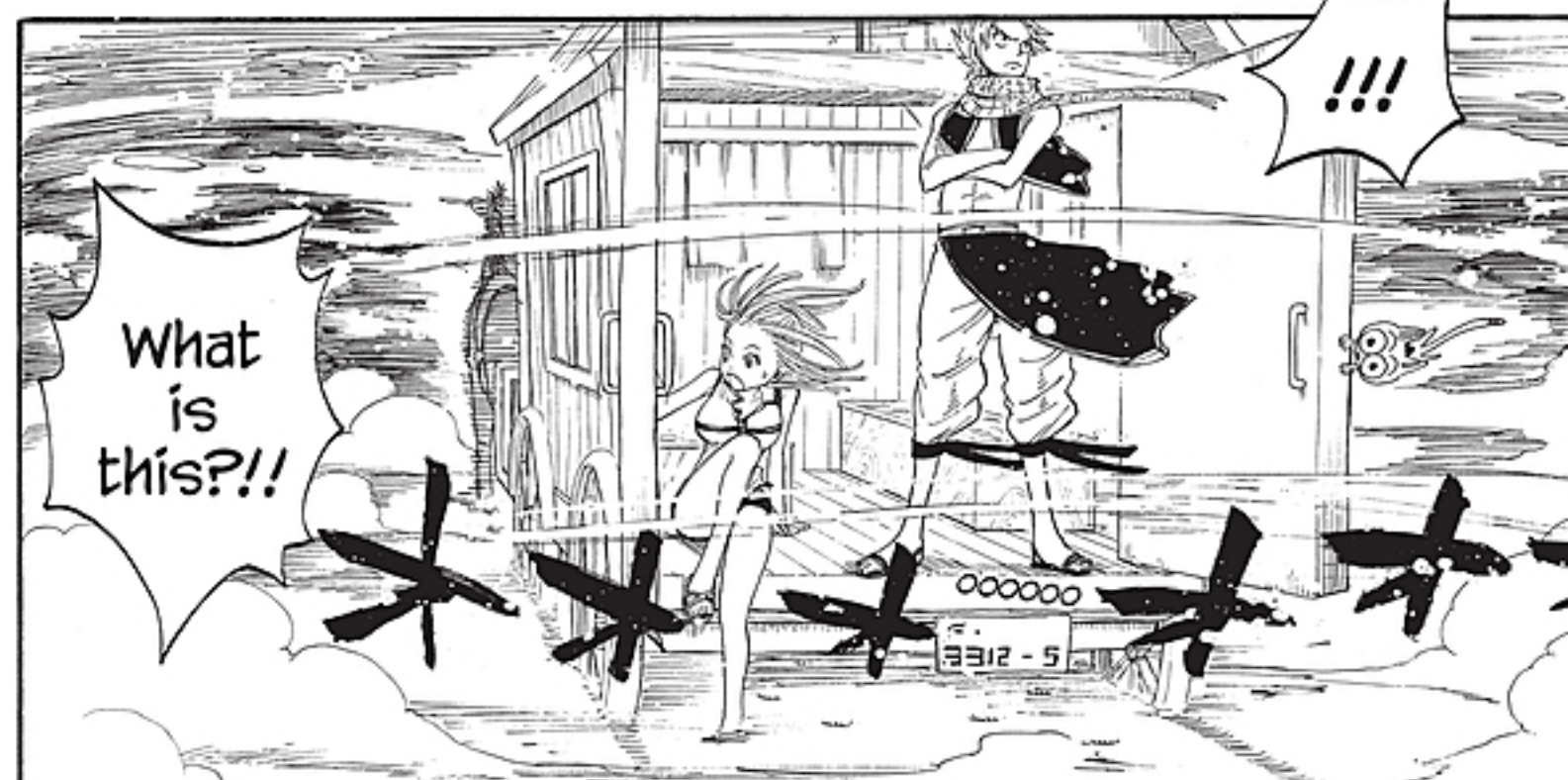
Once we finish our search for Macao-san, I'm going to have to find a place to live.

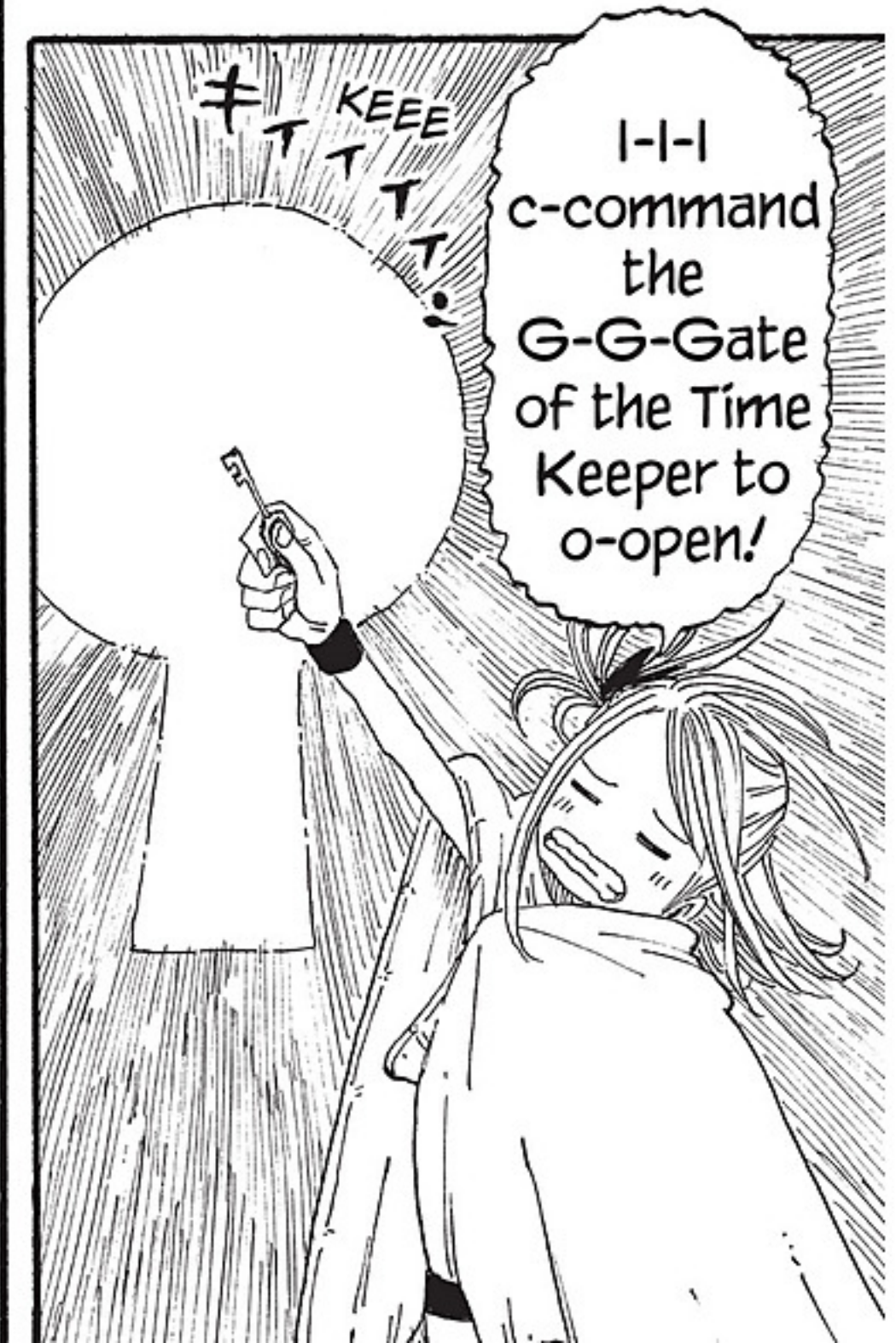
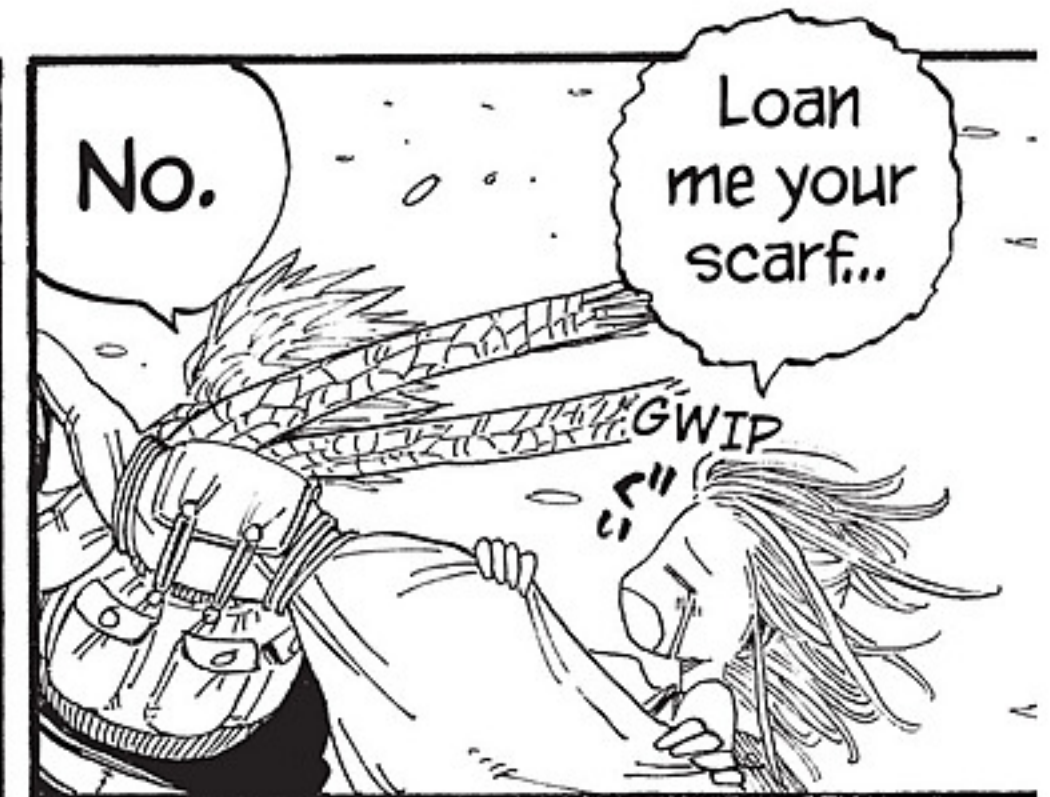
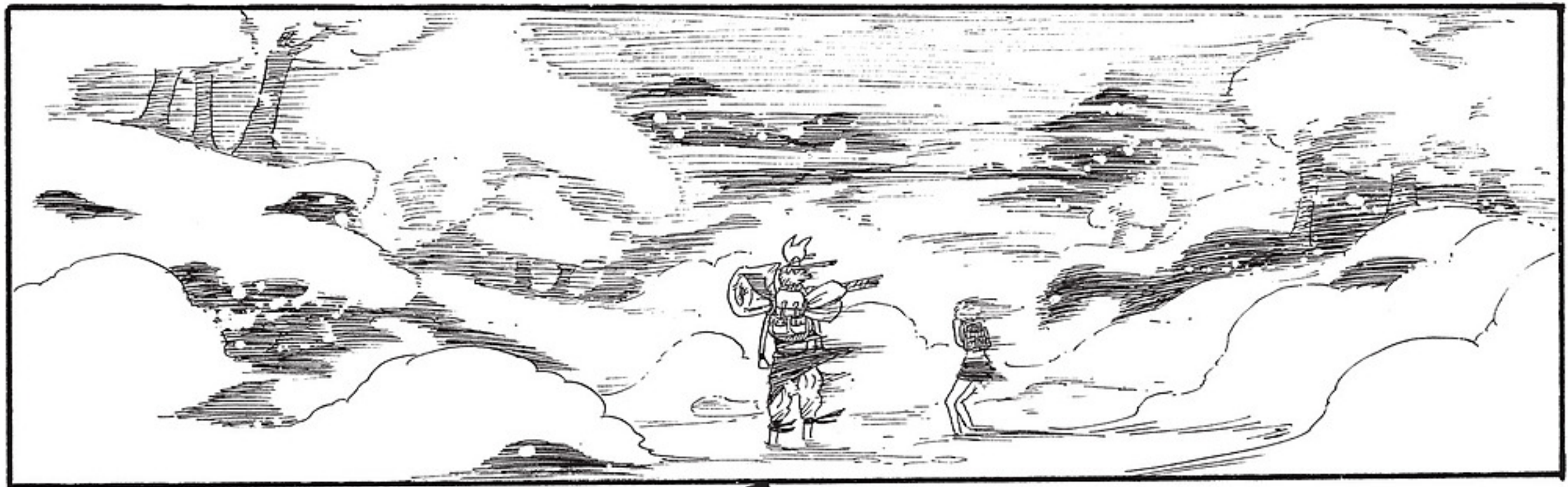
You poor, poor guy!

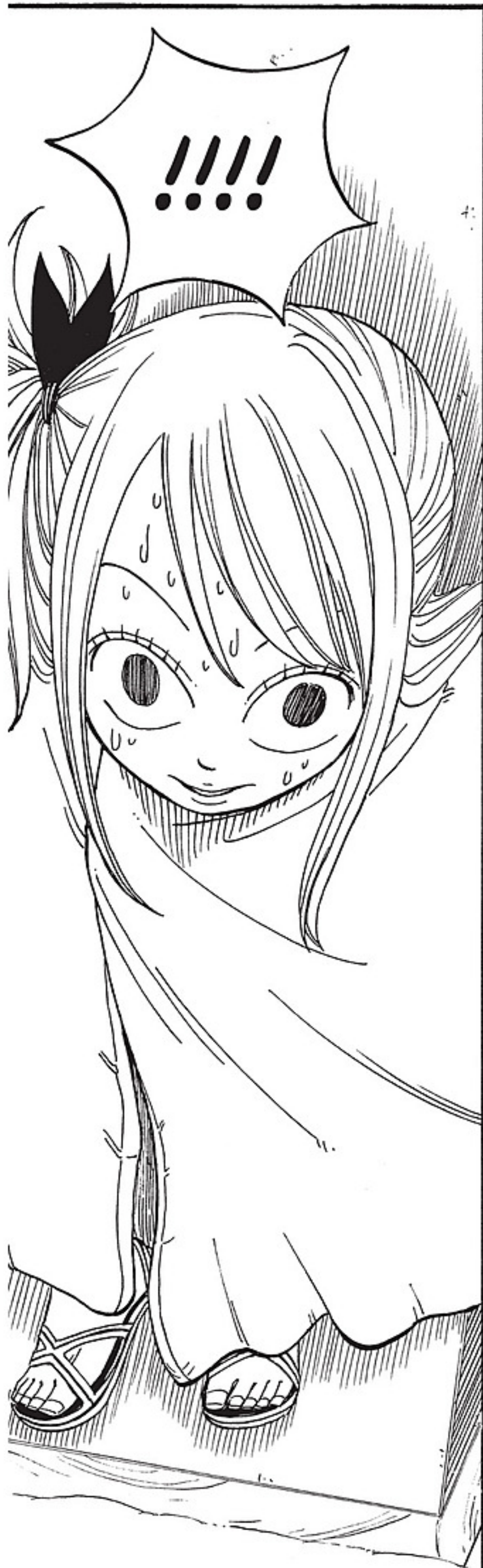
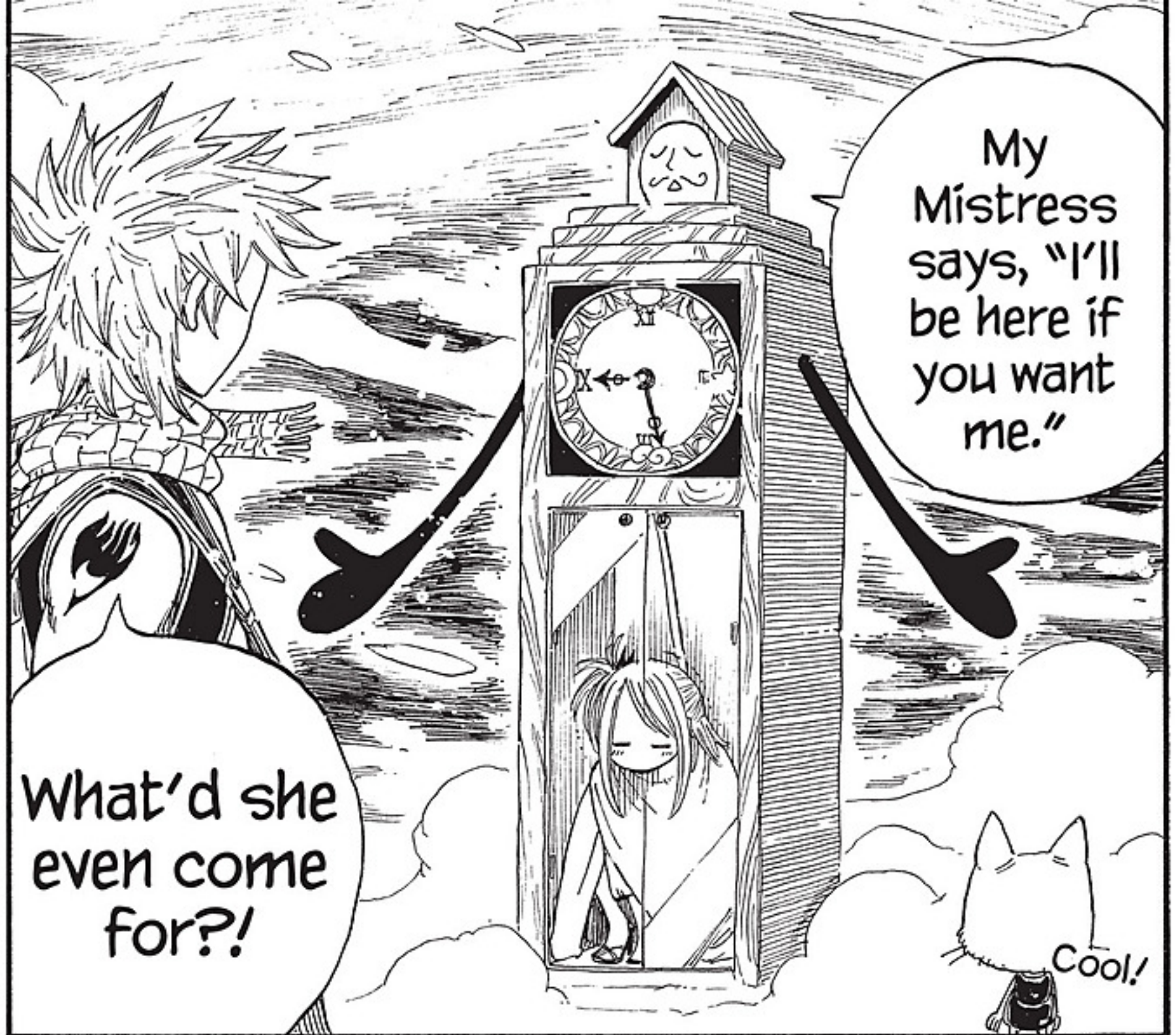
SNIFF

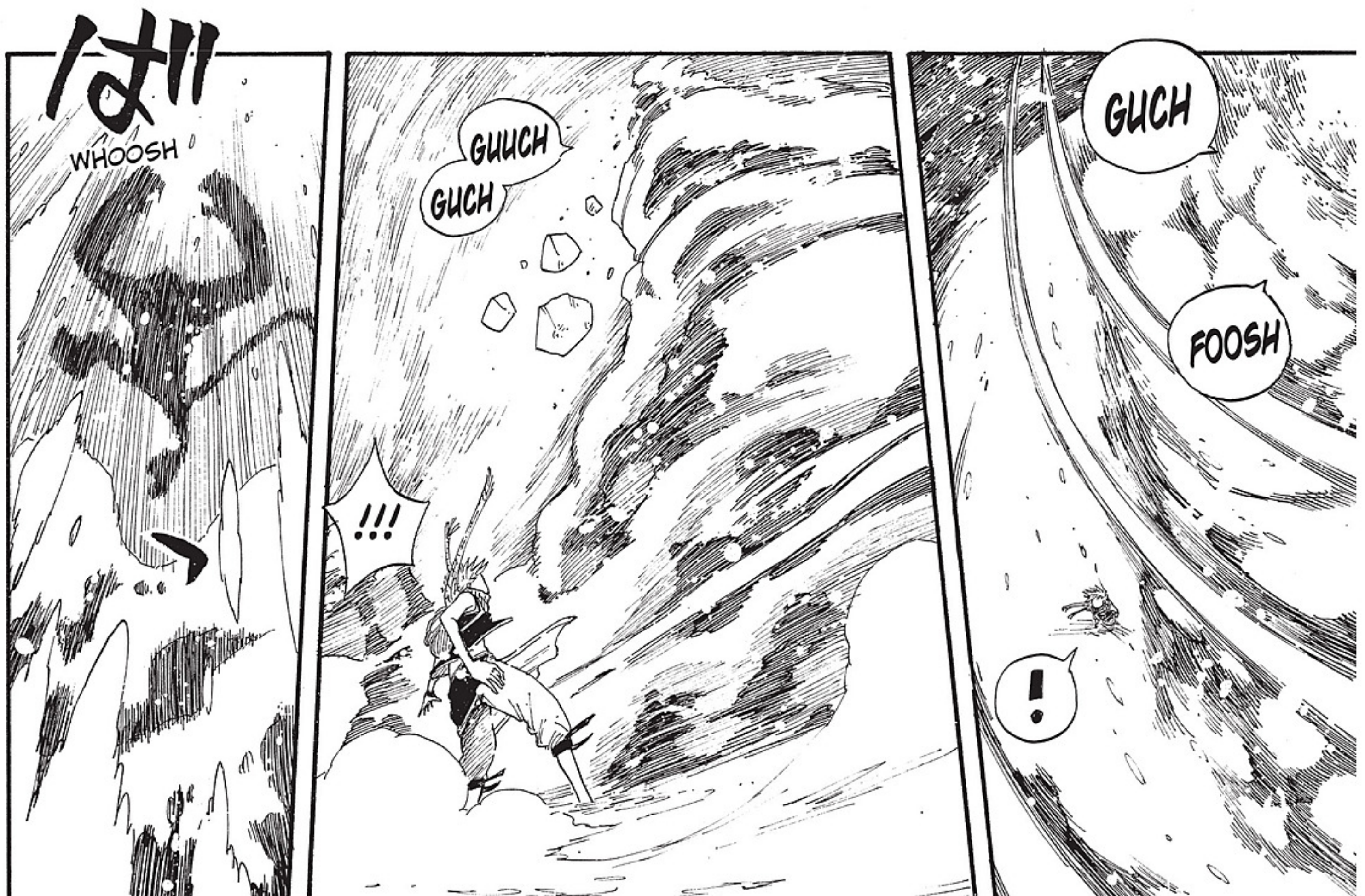
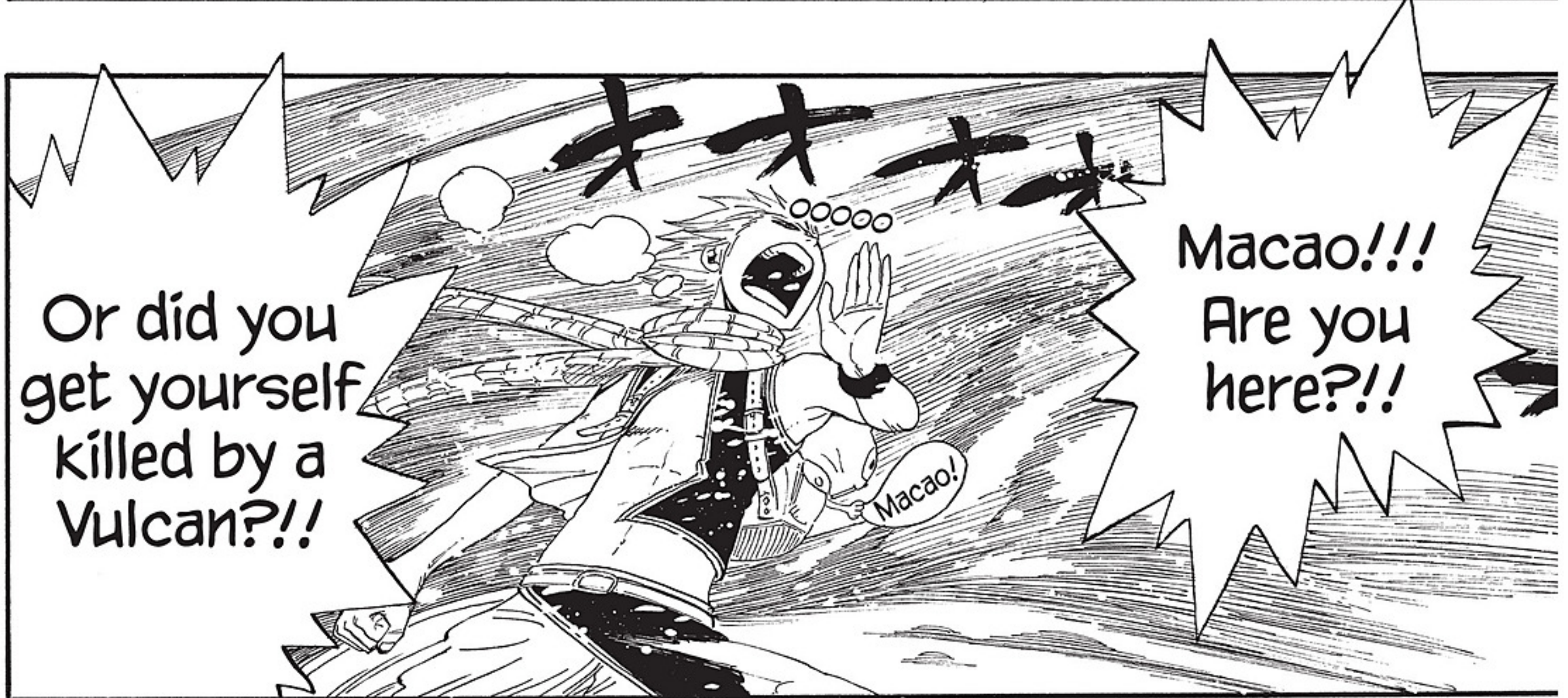
Huh?

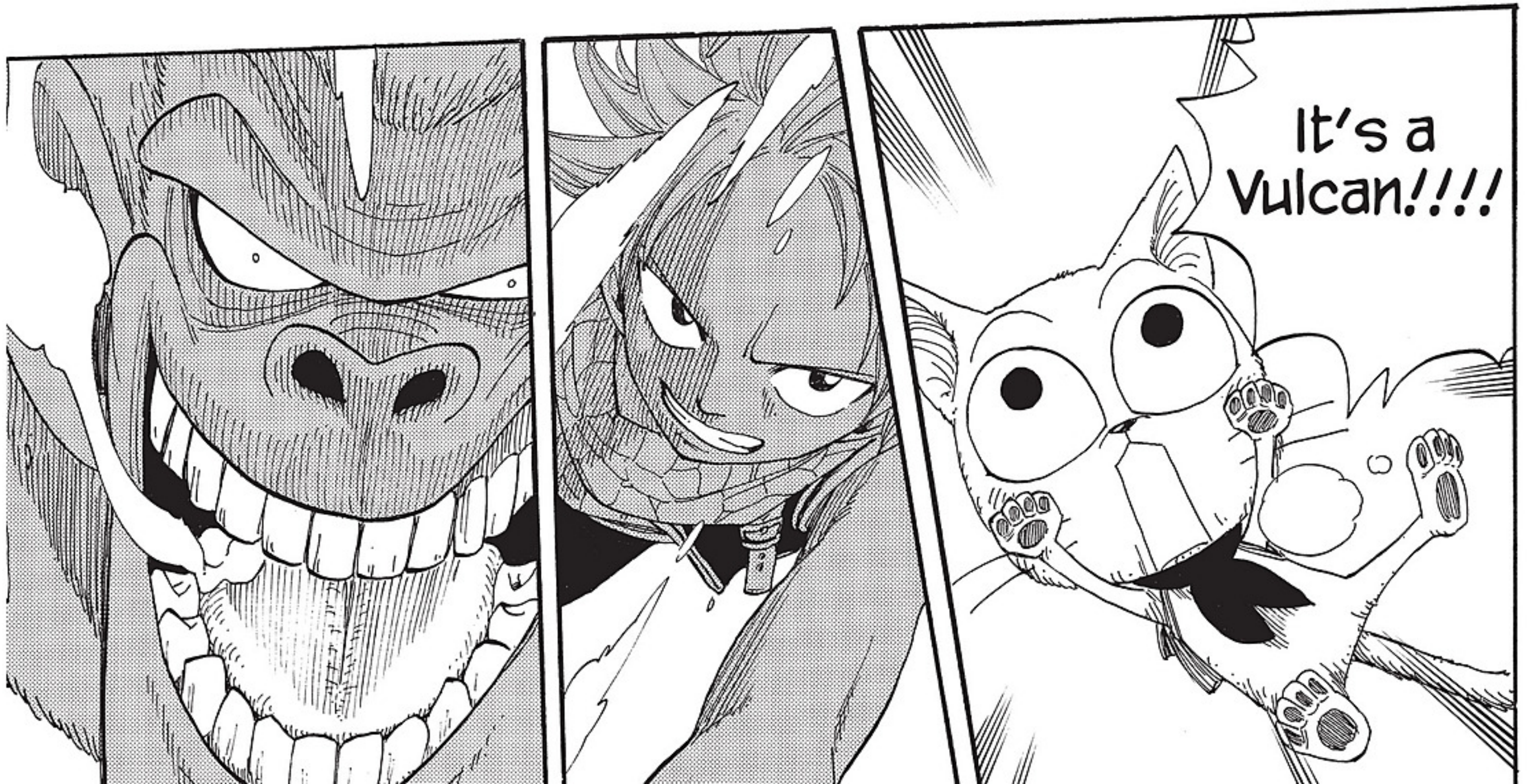


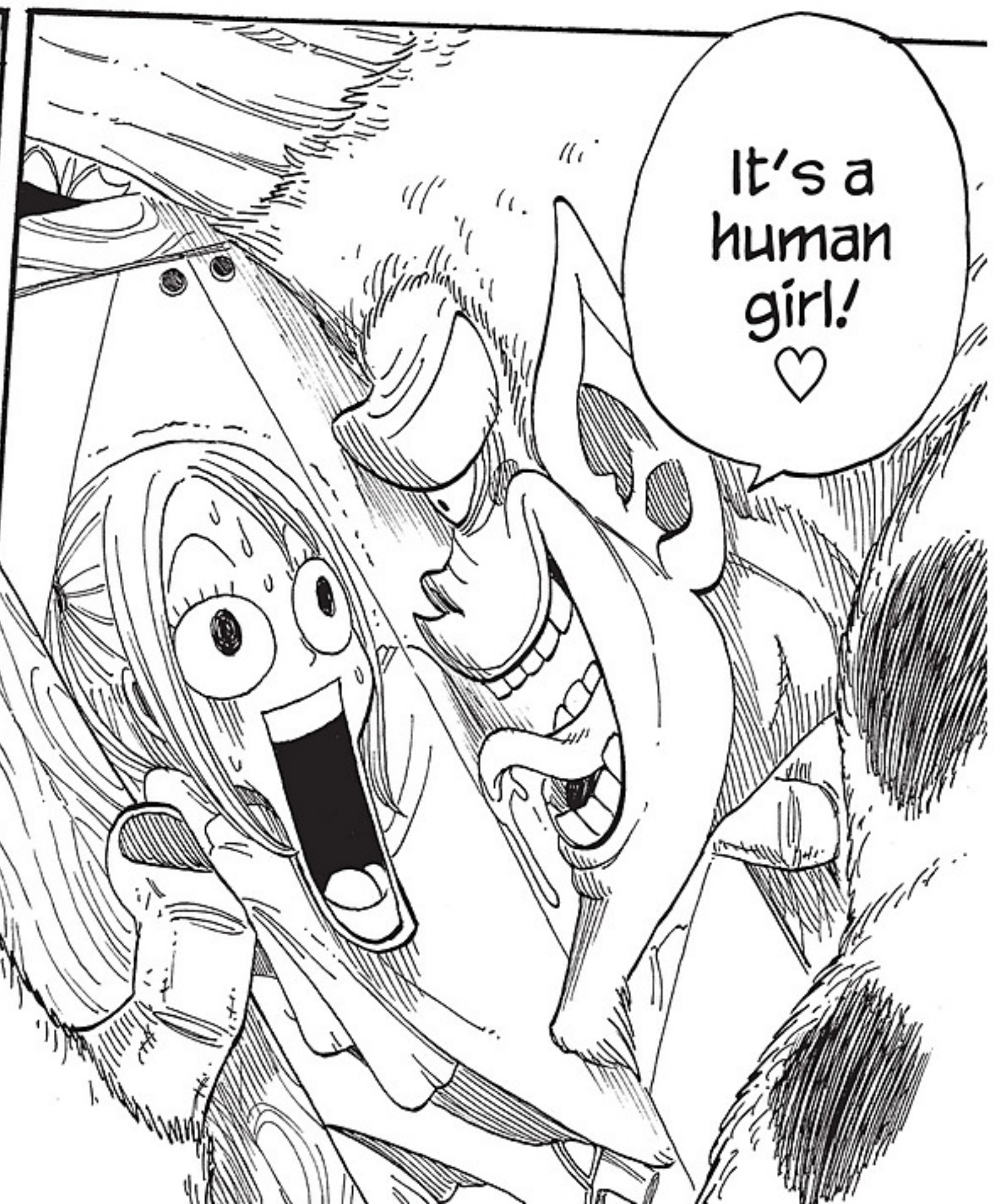
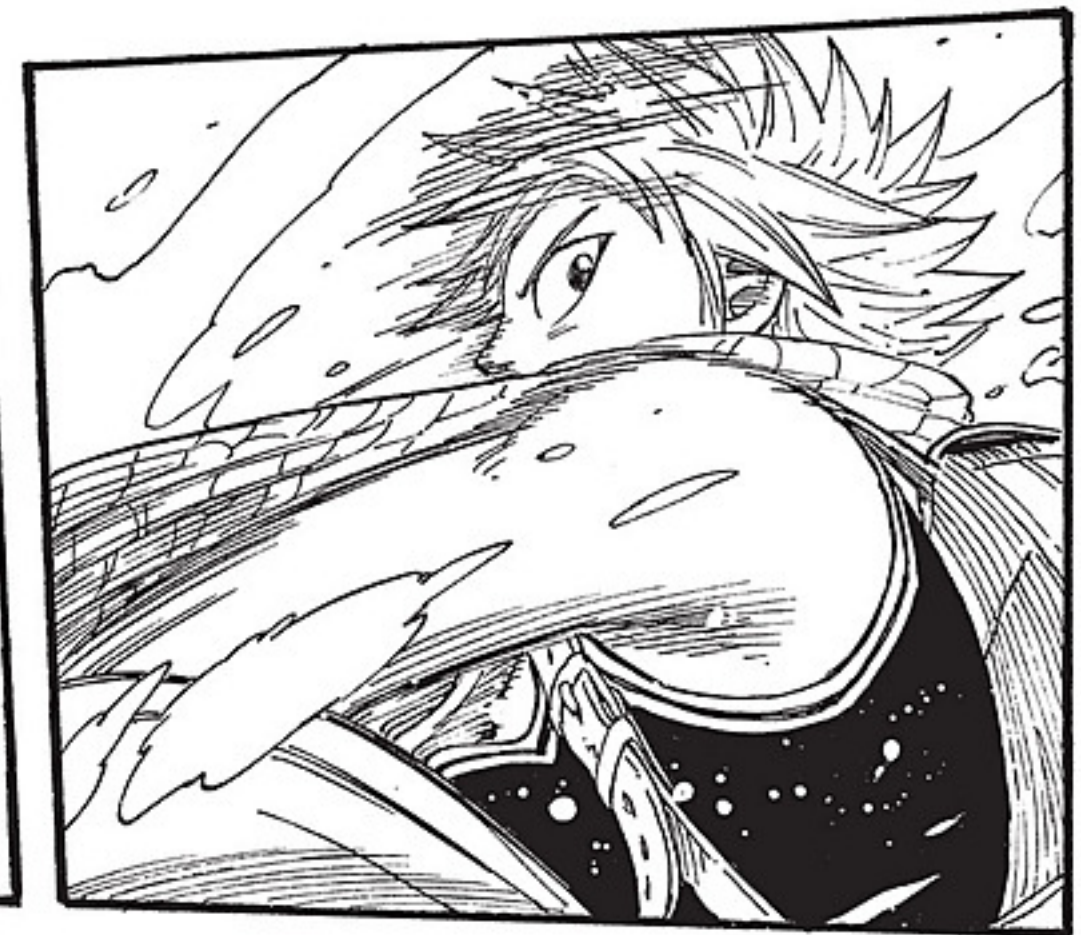
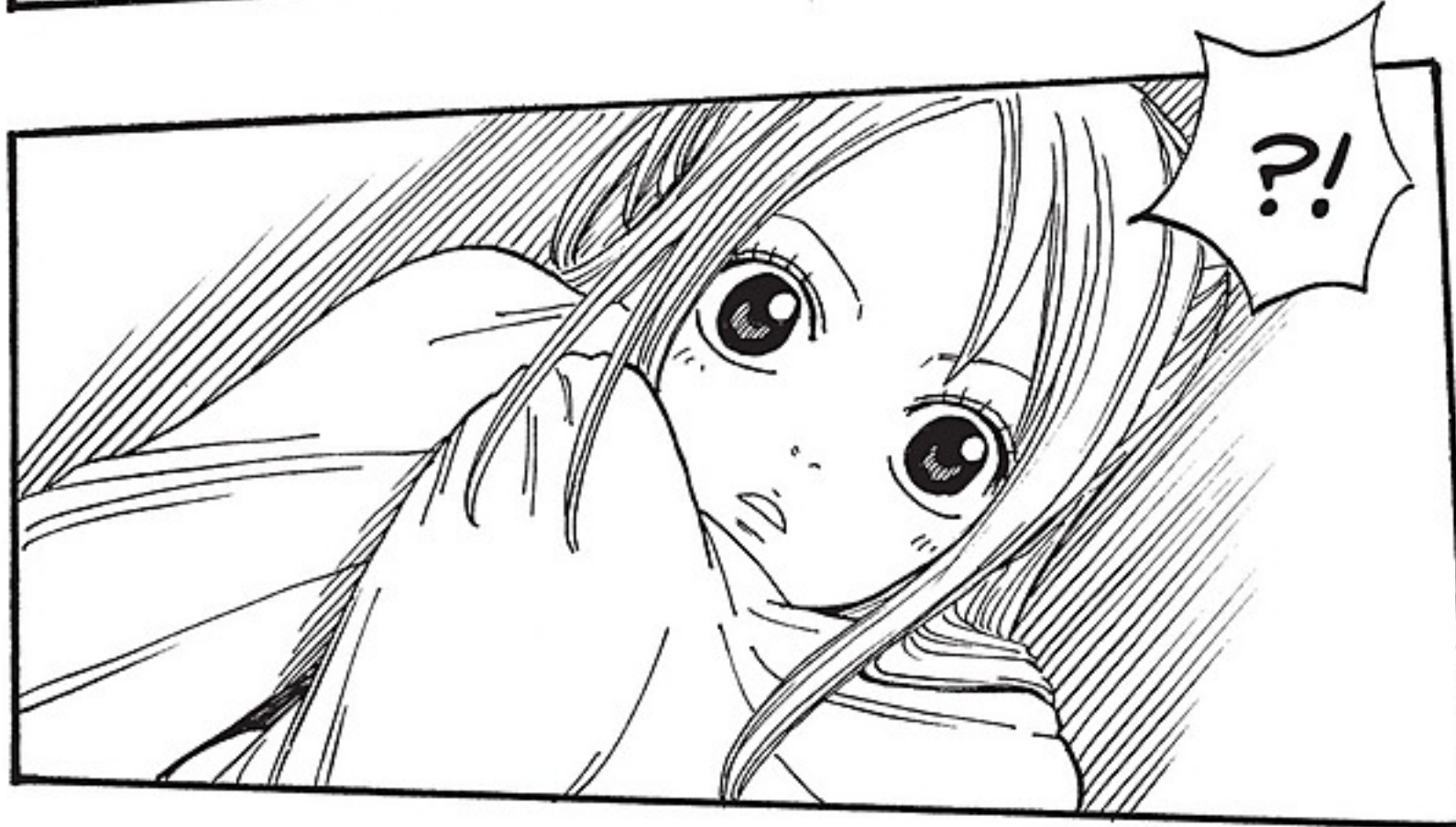


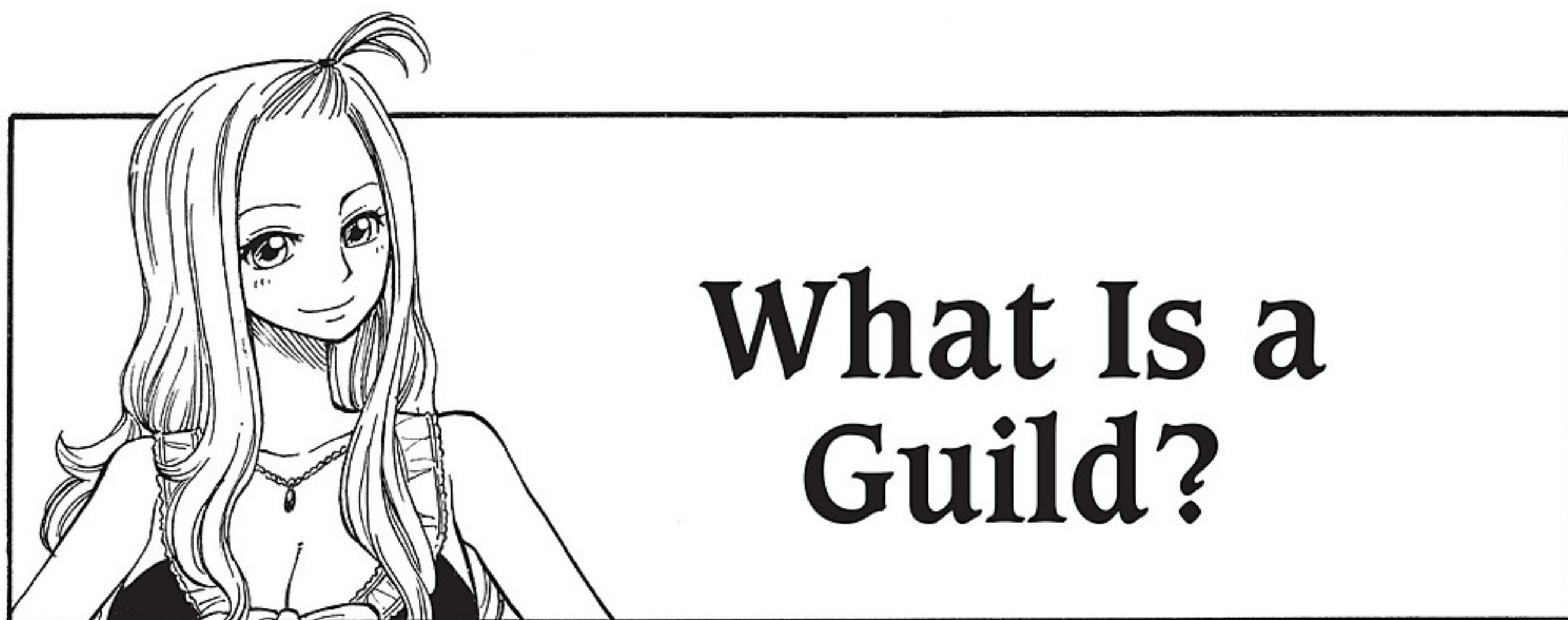












It's a word you don't hear much nowadays, huh? They gave an explanation in the book already, but there may be somebody out there who still doesn't get it, so for that person, I'd like to go into a little more detail.

Originally, guilds began in Europe in the Middle Ages. You can think of them as groups of people working in a single type of industry who join forces and act on their decisions together. At the time, guilds were only for tradesmen and craftsmen, but for the purposes of this story, we thought, "What the heck? Let's make a story about craftsmen whose craft is wizardry!" And thus, this book.

So why did guilds arise in the first place? It's because the world is full of dangers. Tradesmen cross mountains and oceans to sell their wares. But there are pirates on the oceans and bandits in the mountains who are after the tradesmen's goods. Hiring soldiers costs a lot of money. So what to do? Well, why shouldn't everyone go together?!

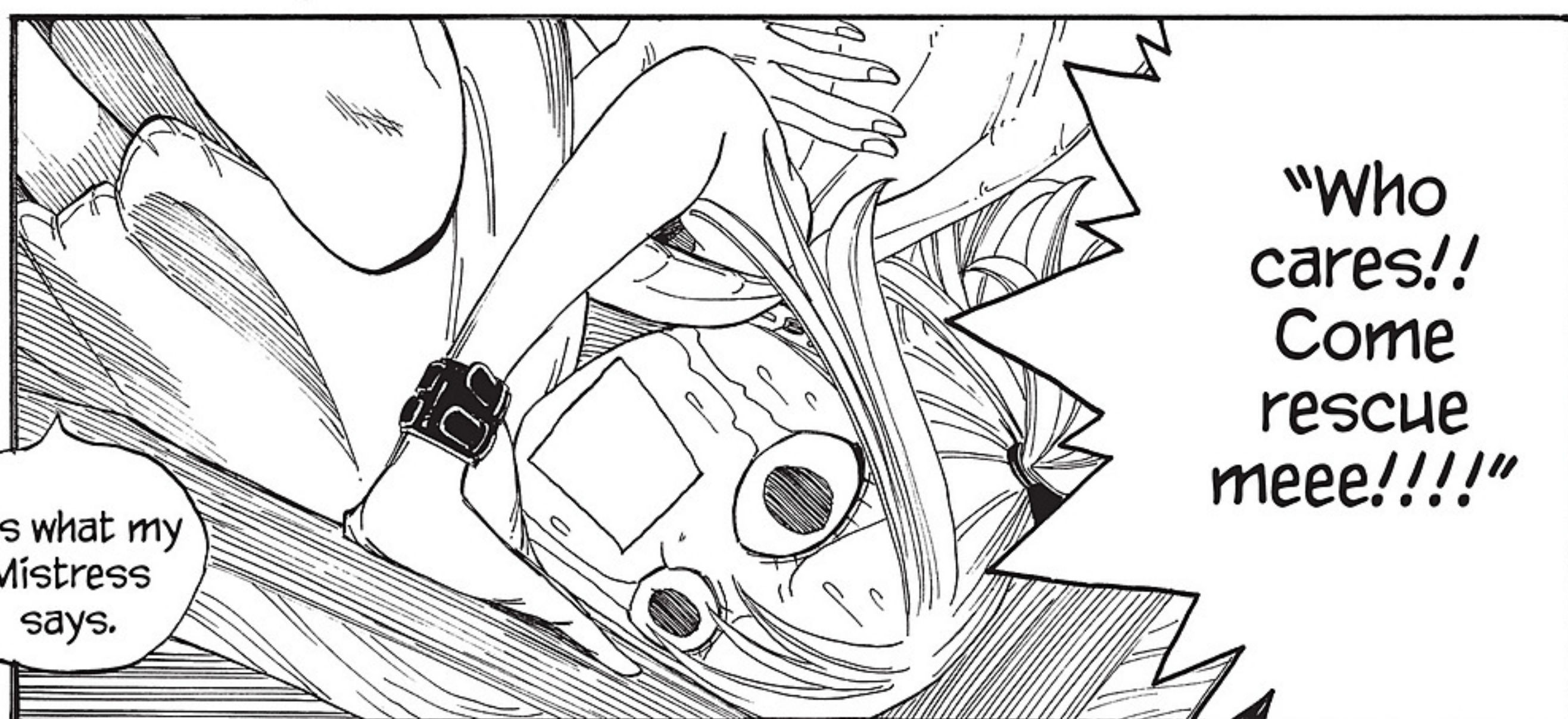
And that's how many people with the same objective first gathered together. The danger never really went away, but they had more strength together than alone, right? One additional benefit was that the guild would take care of a tradesman's house when he was off on business. Eventually, the guilds became too powerful, and they were the causes of wars. But if you're really interested in that part, go do some studying. (Ha ha!)

In other words, a guild is where people with similar objectives congregate. In this story, the people are a group of wizards who earn their living by using magic to help solve other people's problems. "Earn your living" may sound a little too "grown-up" for some of you, but it means that wizards have a lot of adventures to look forward to. That's what the wizard guild is all about!



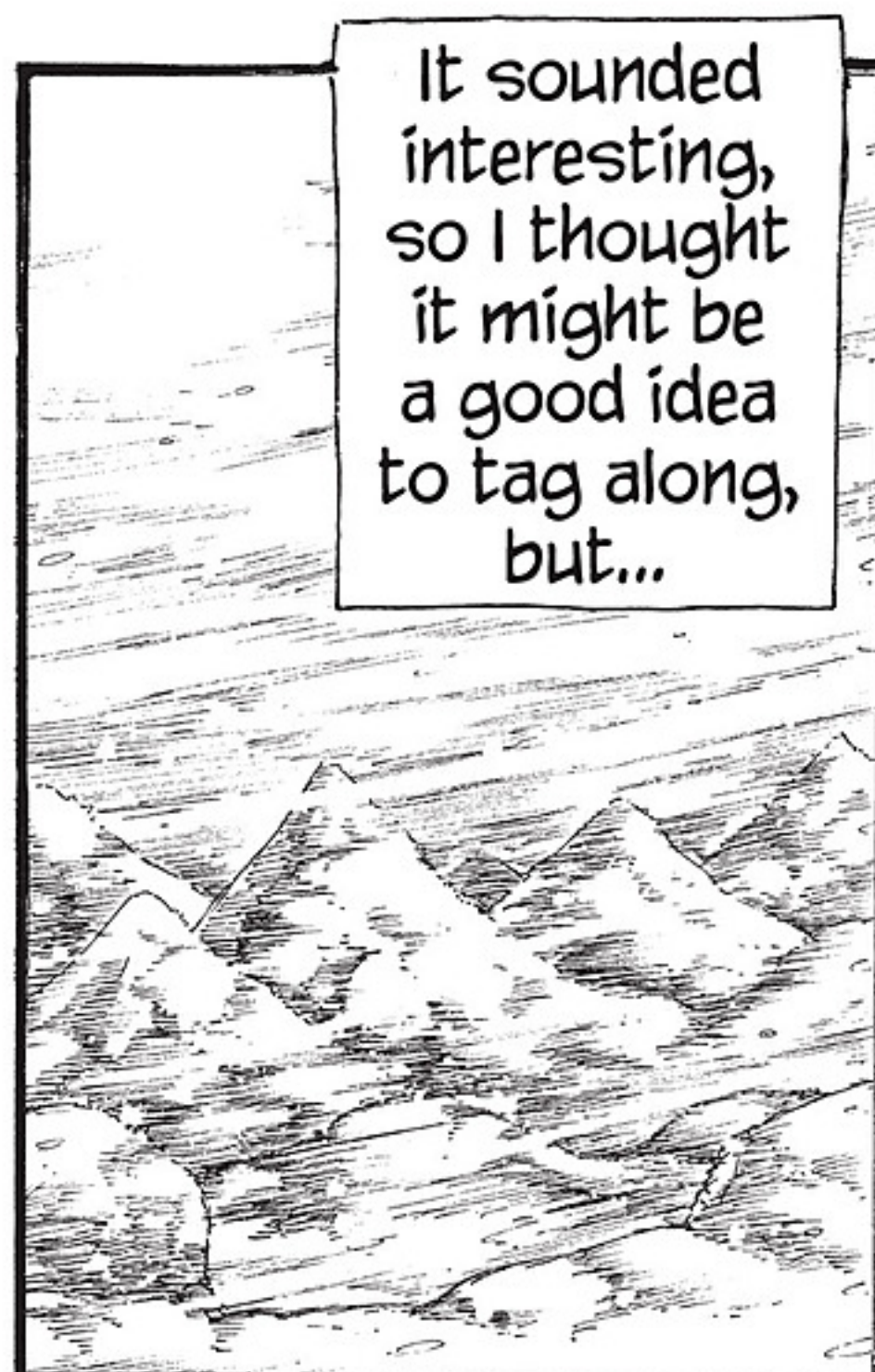
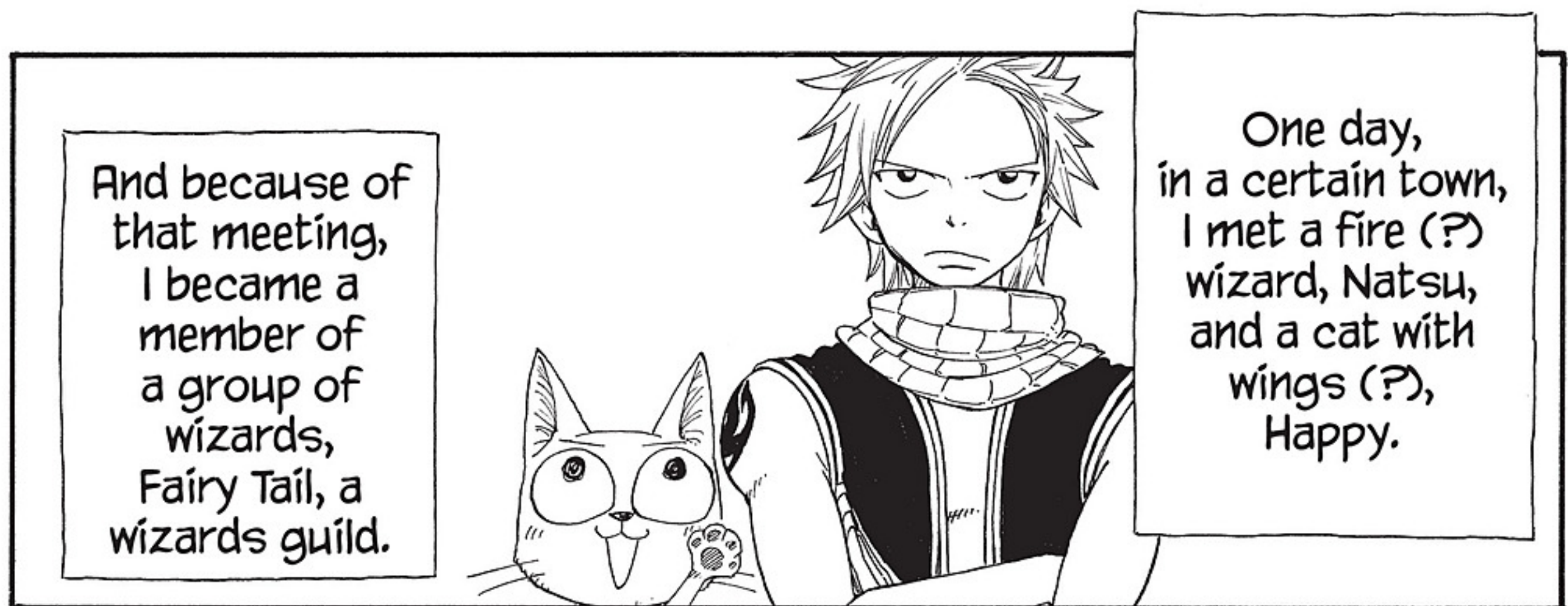
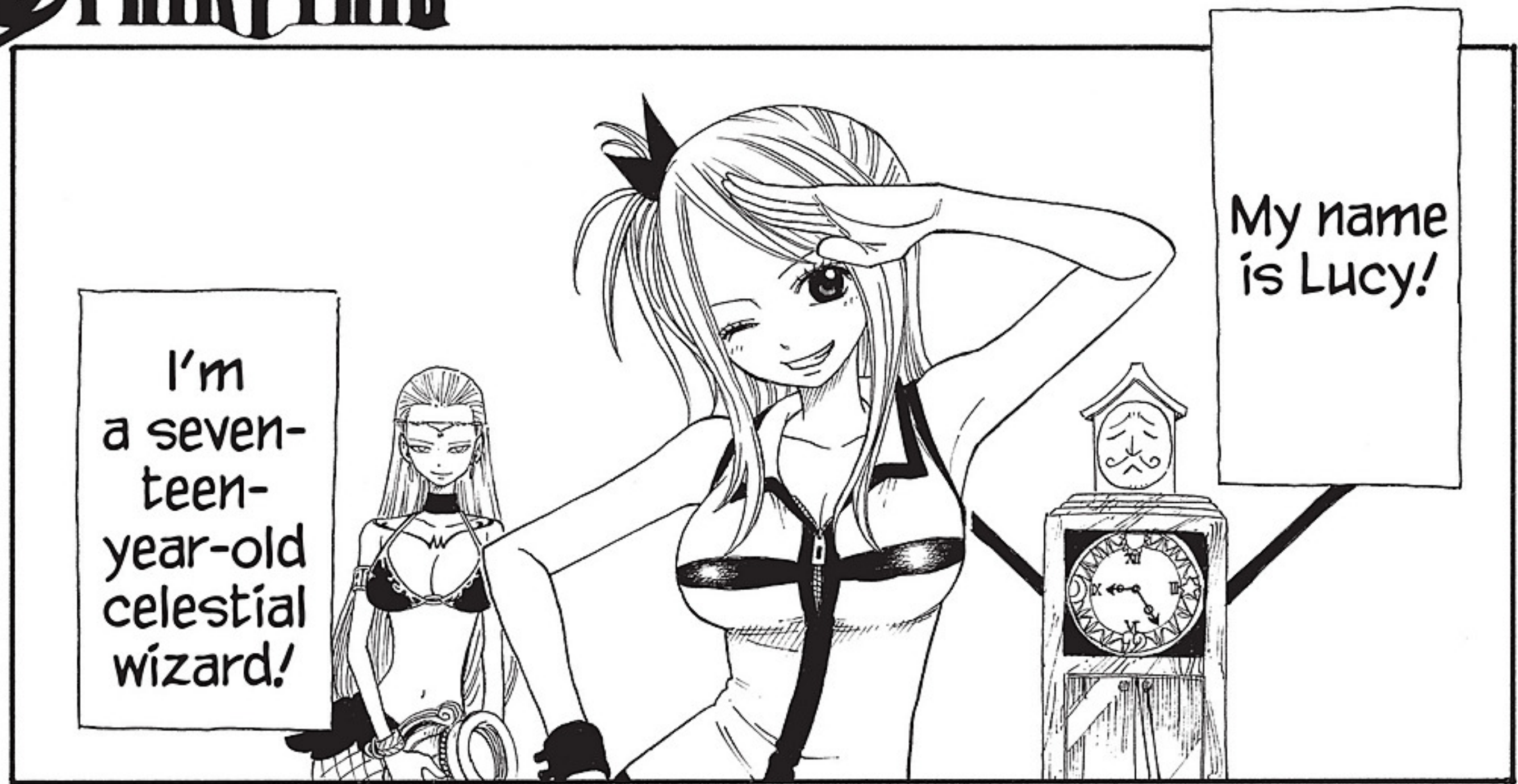
So
he can
talk?!

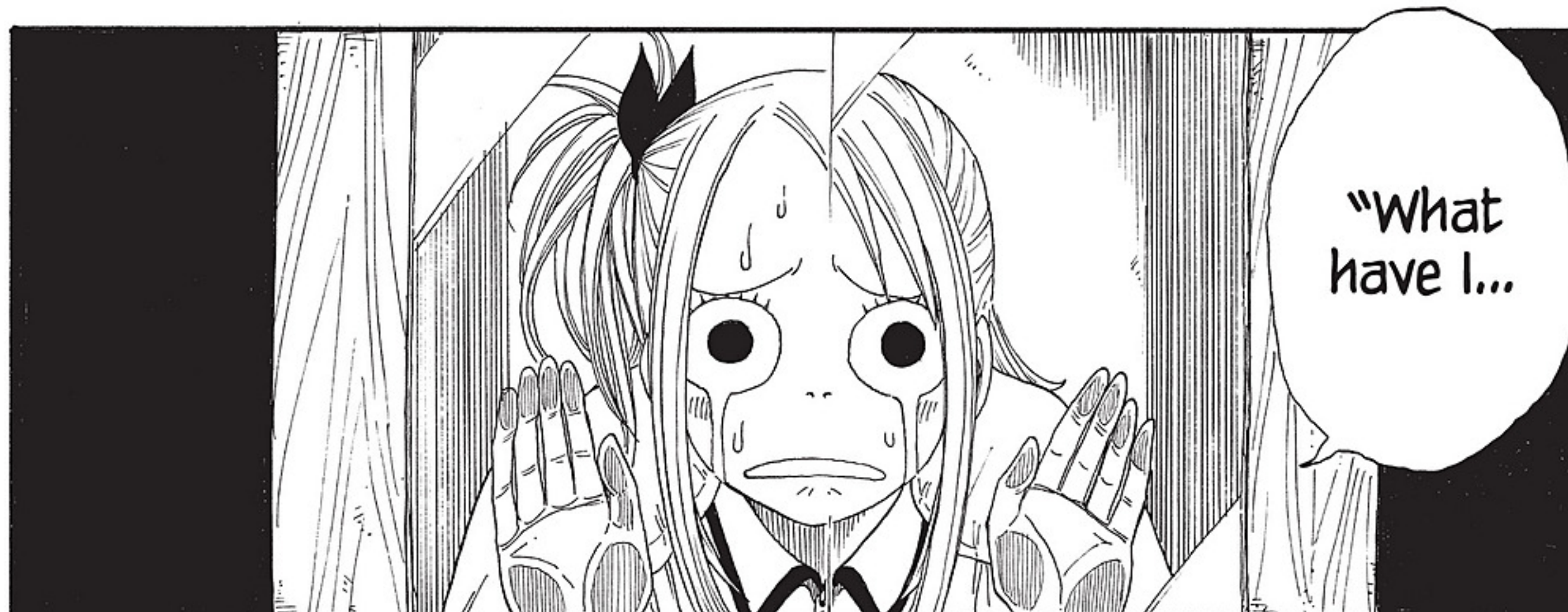
PAFF



Who
cares!!
Come
rescue
meee!!!!

...is what my
Mistress
says.

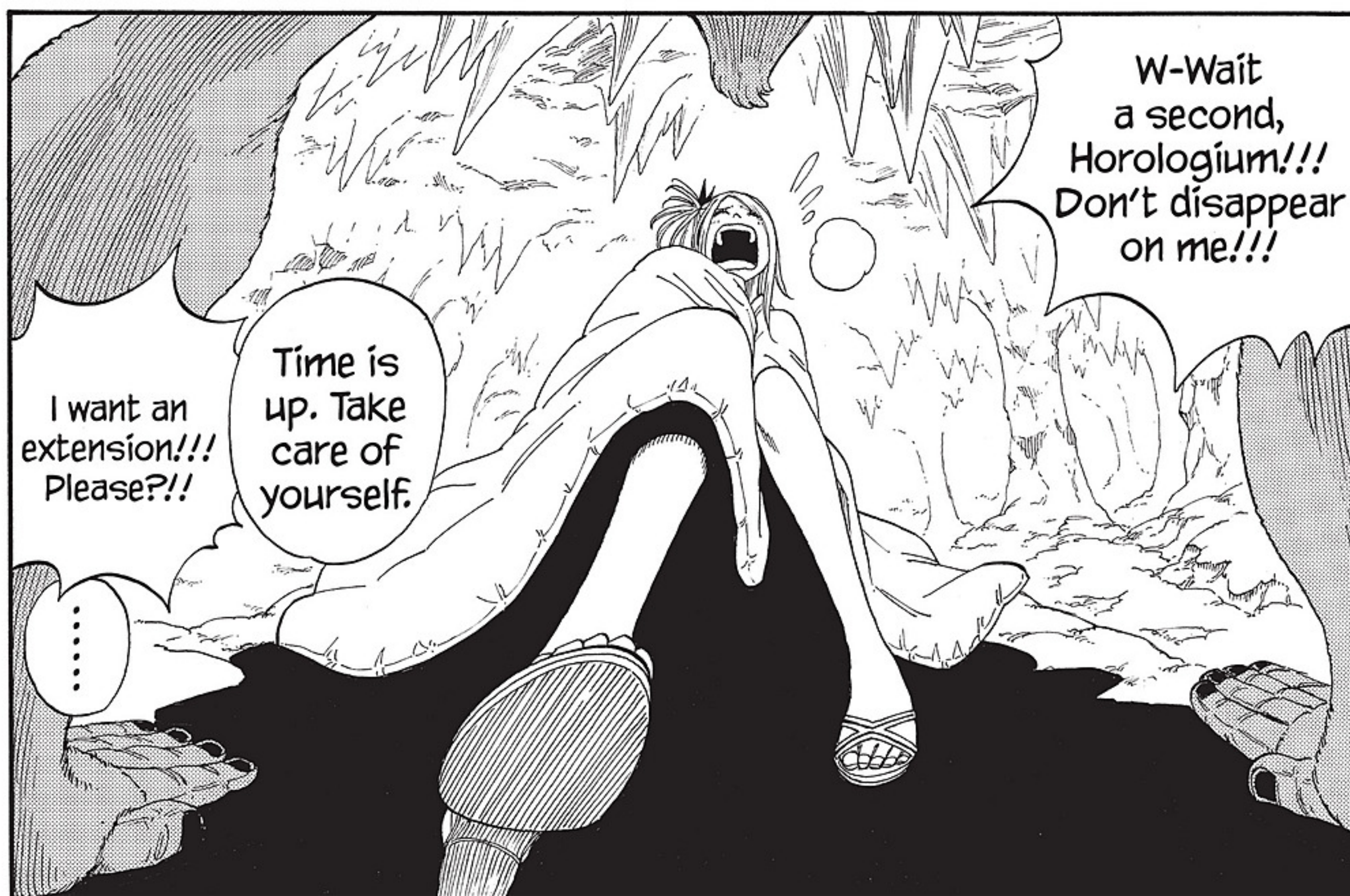
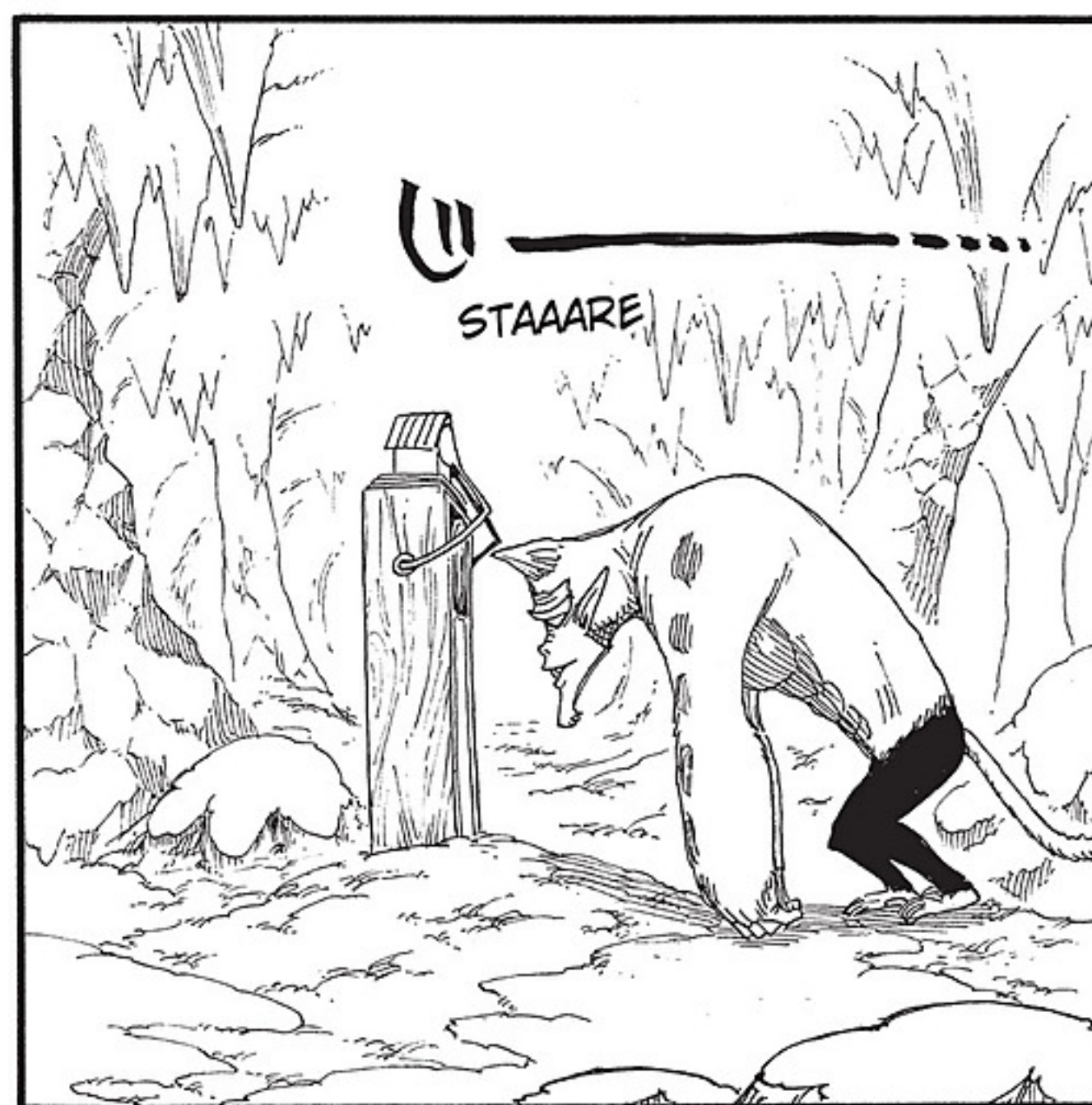
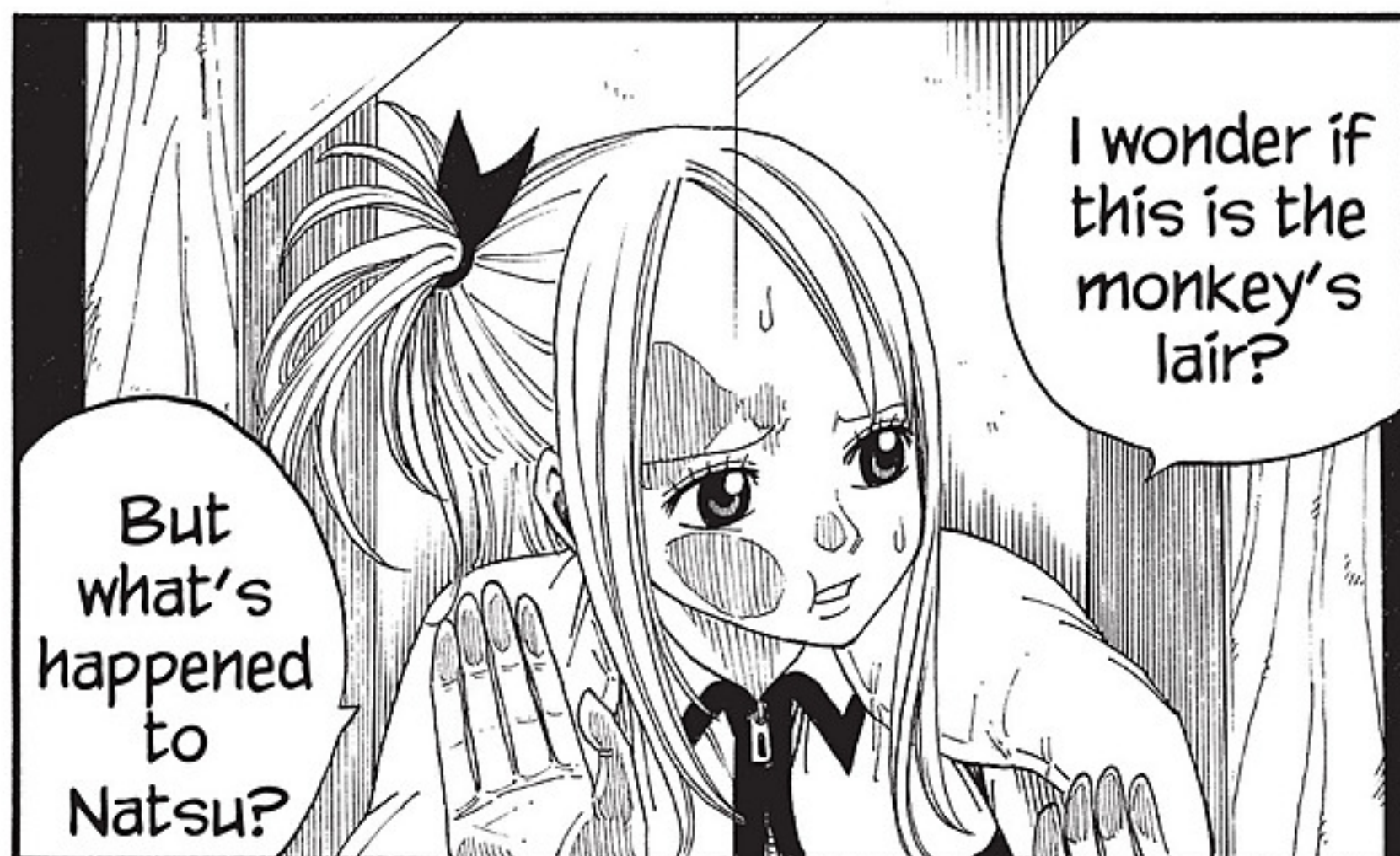
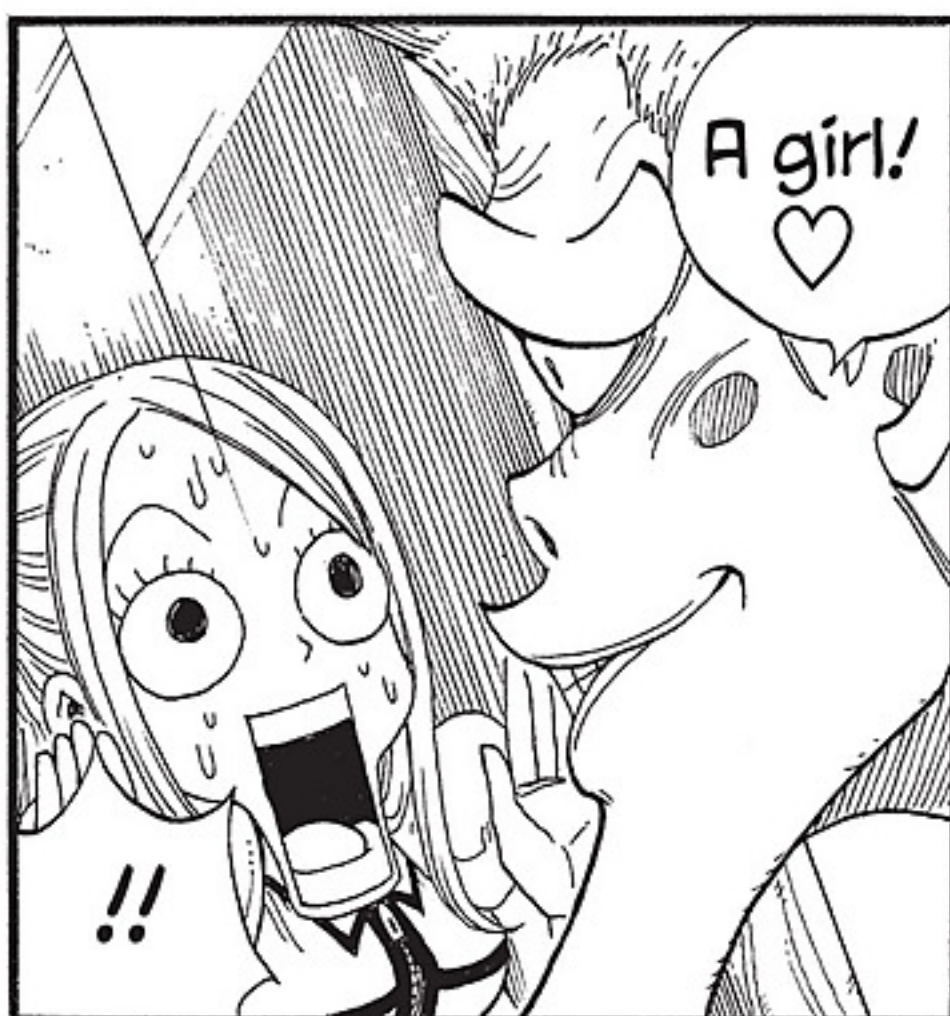


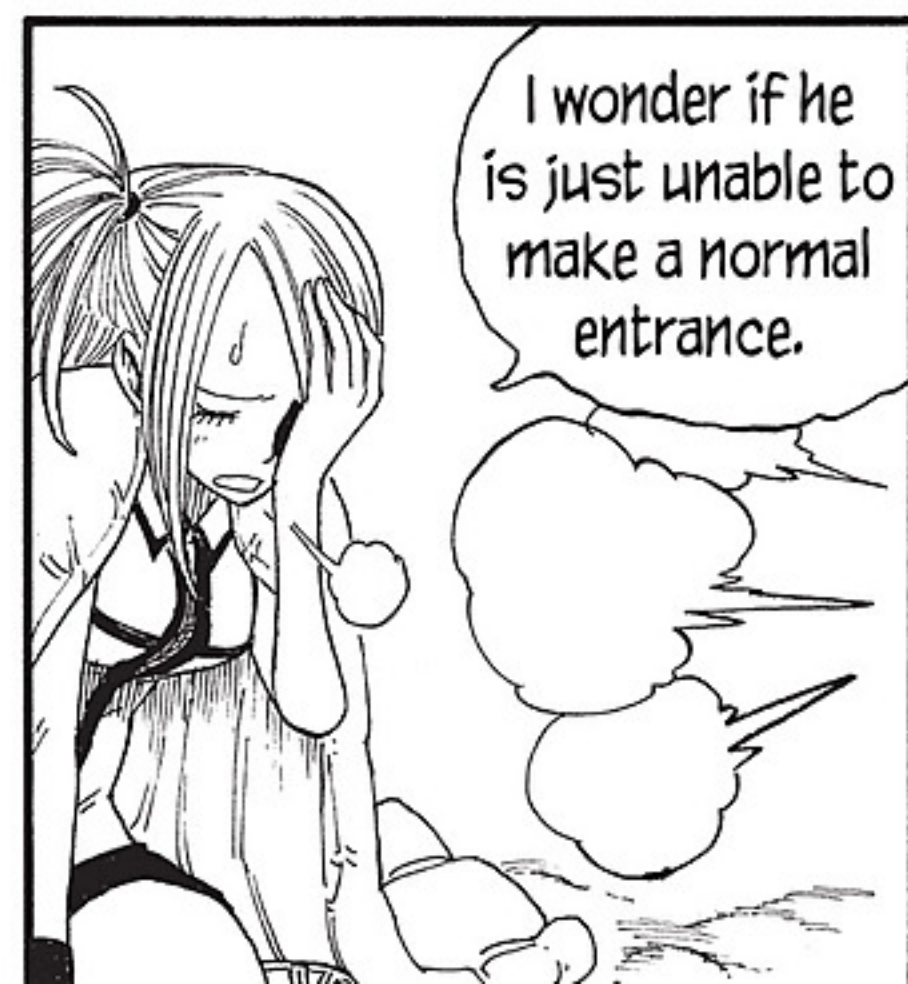
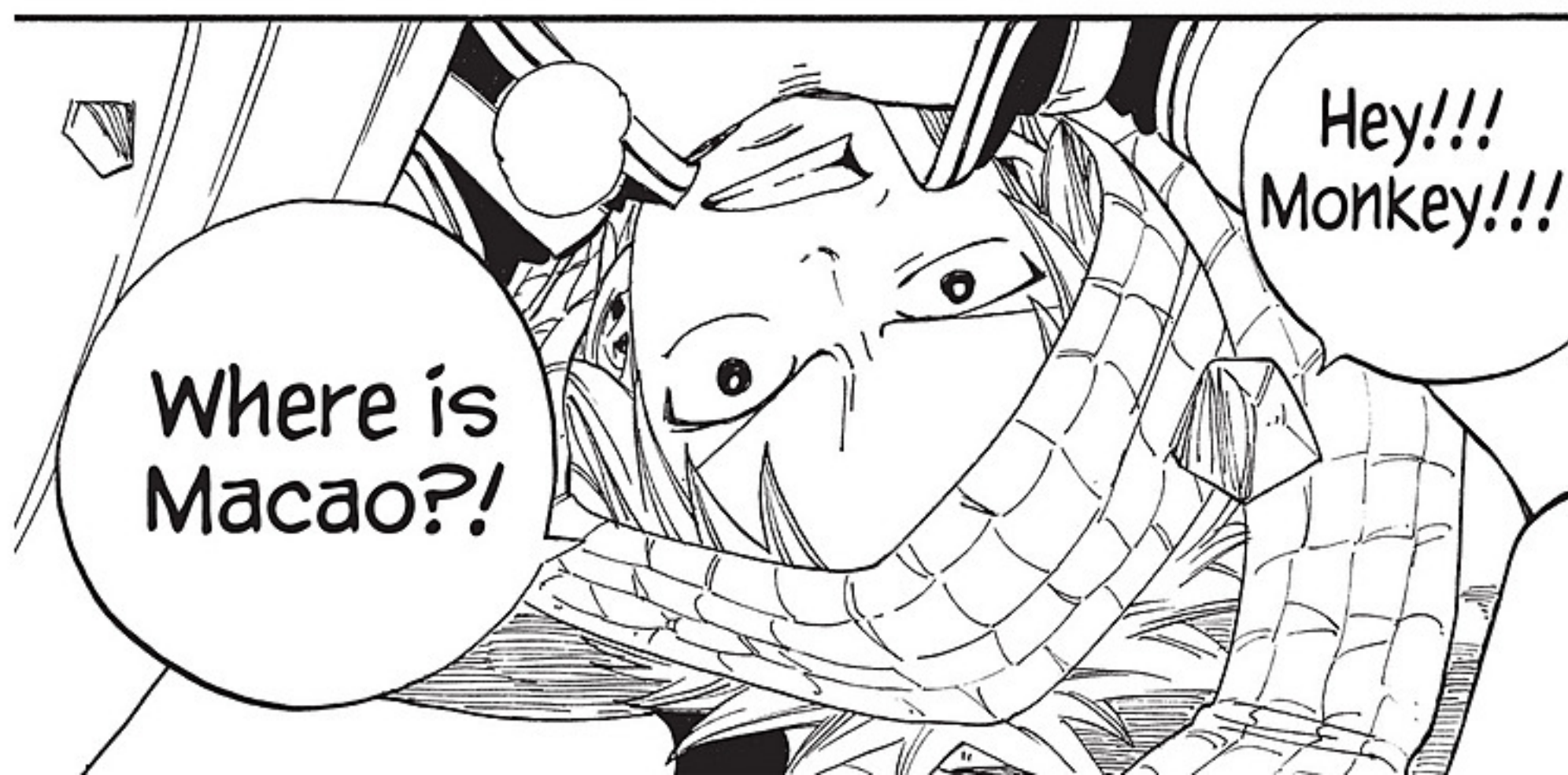
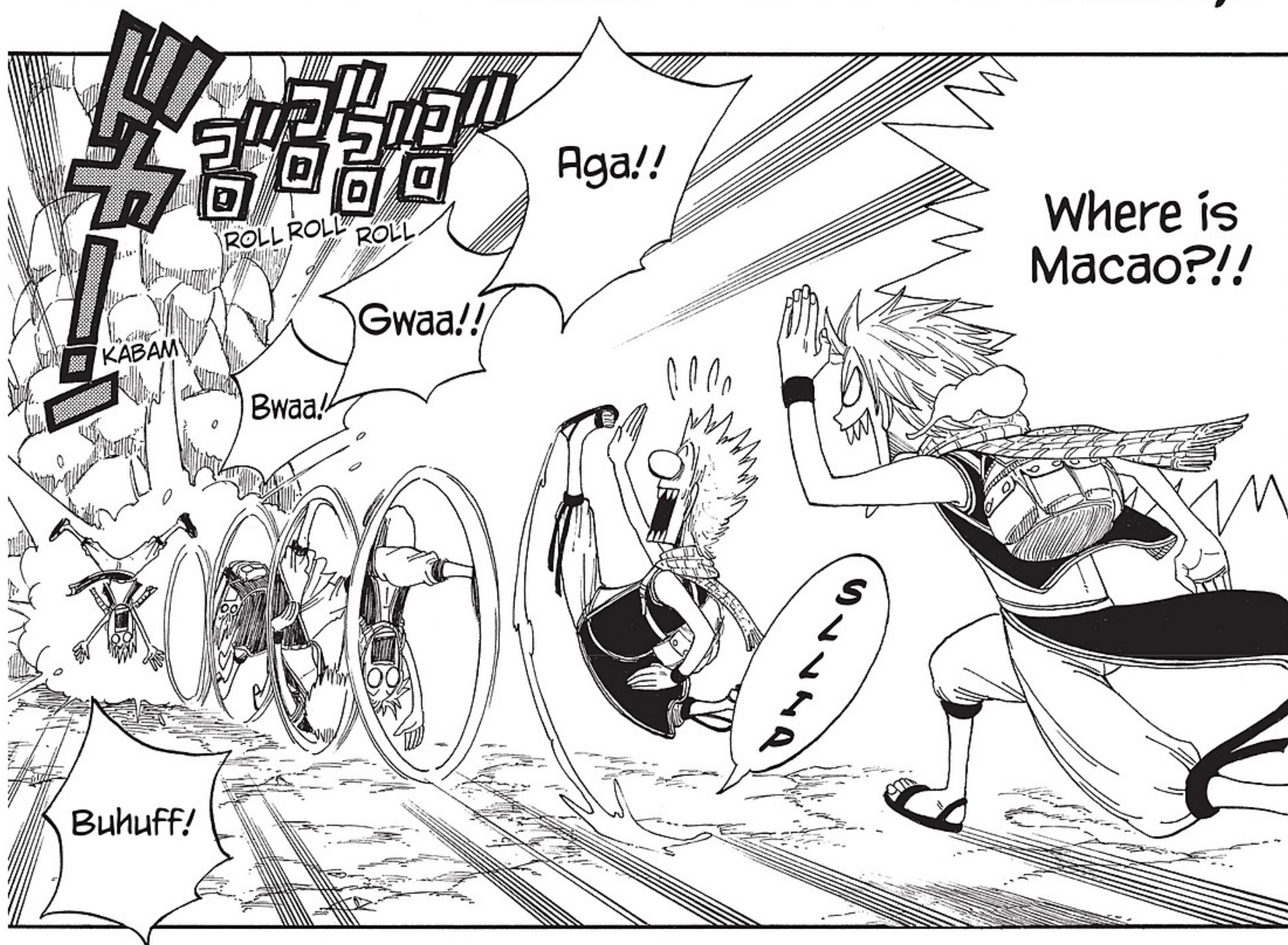
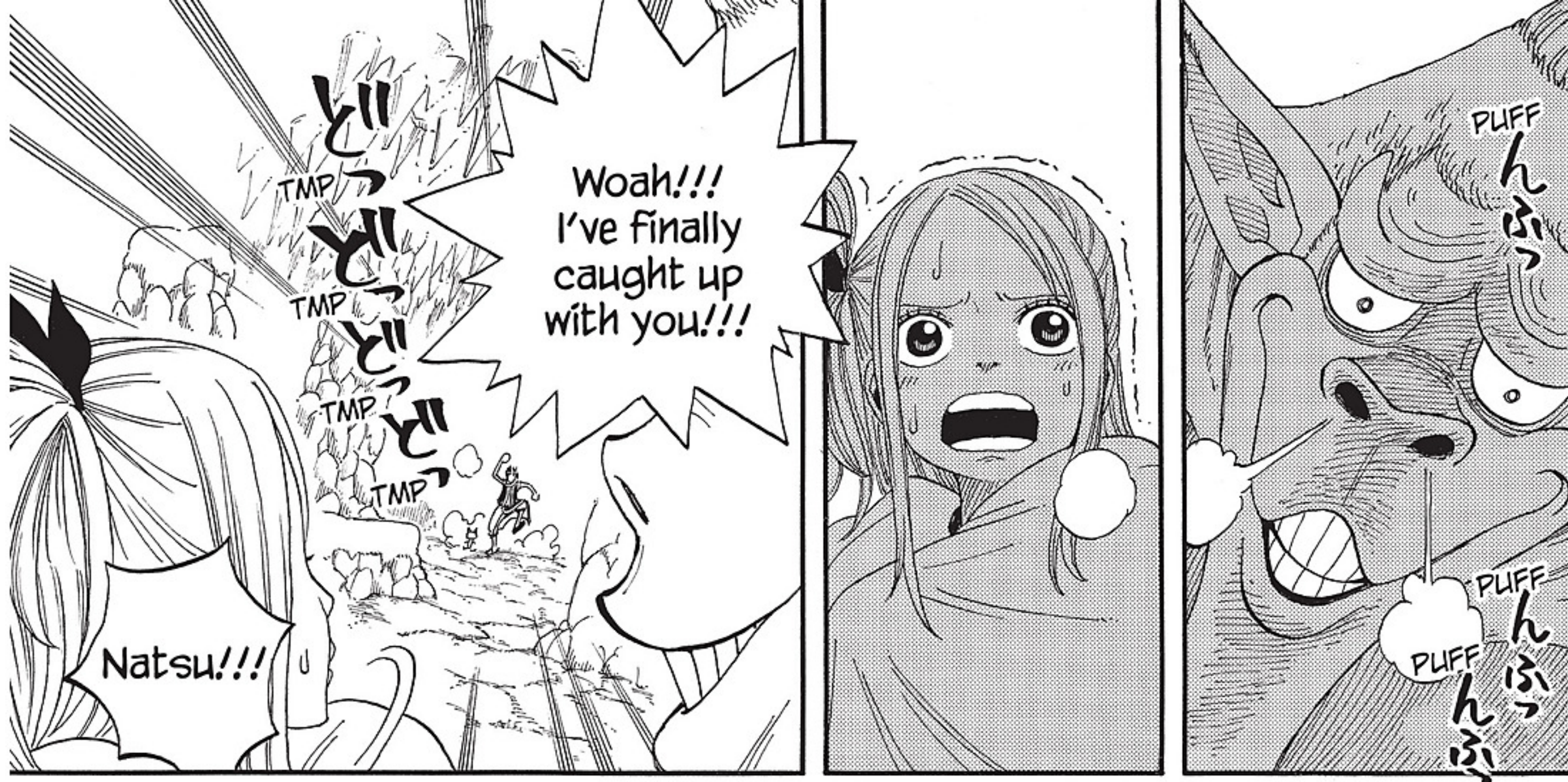


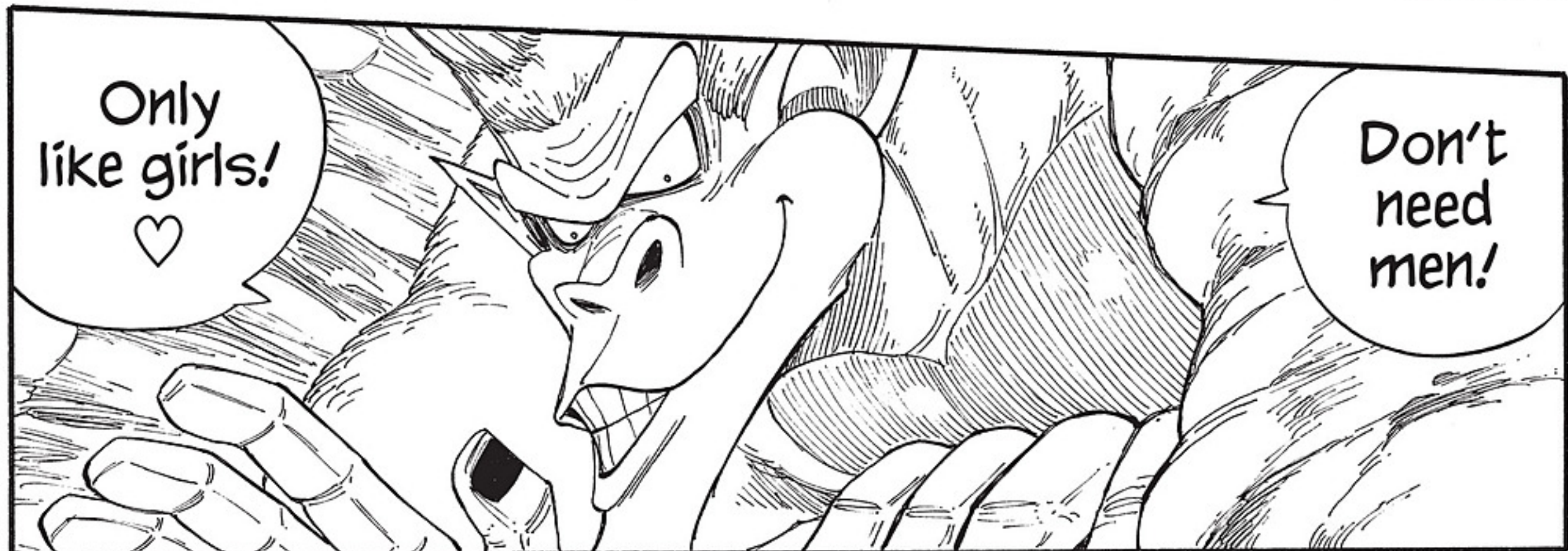
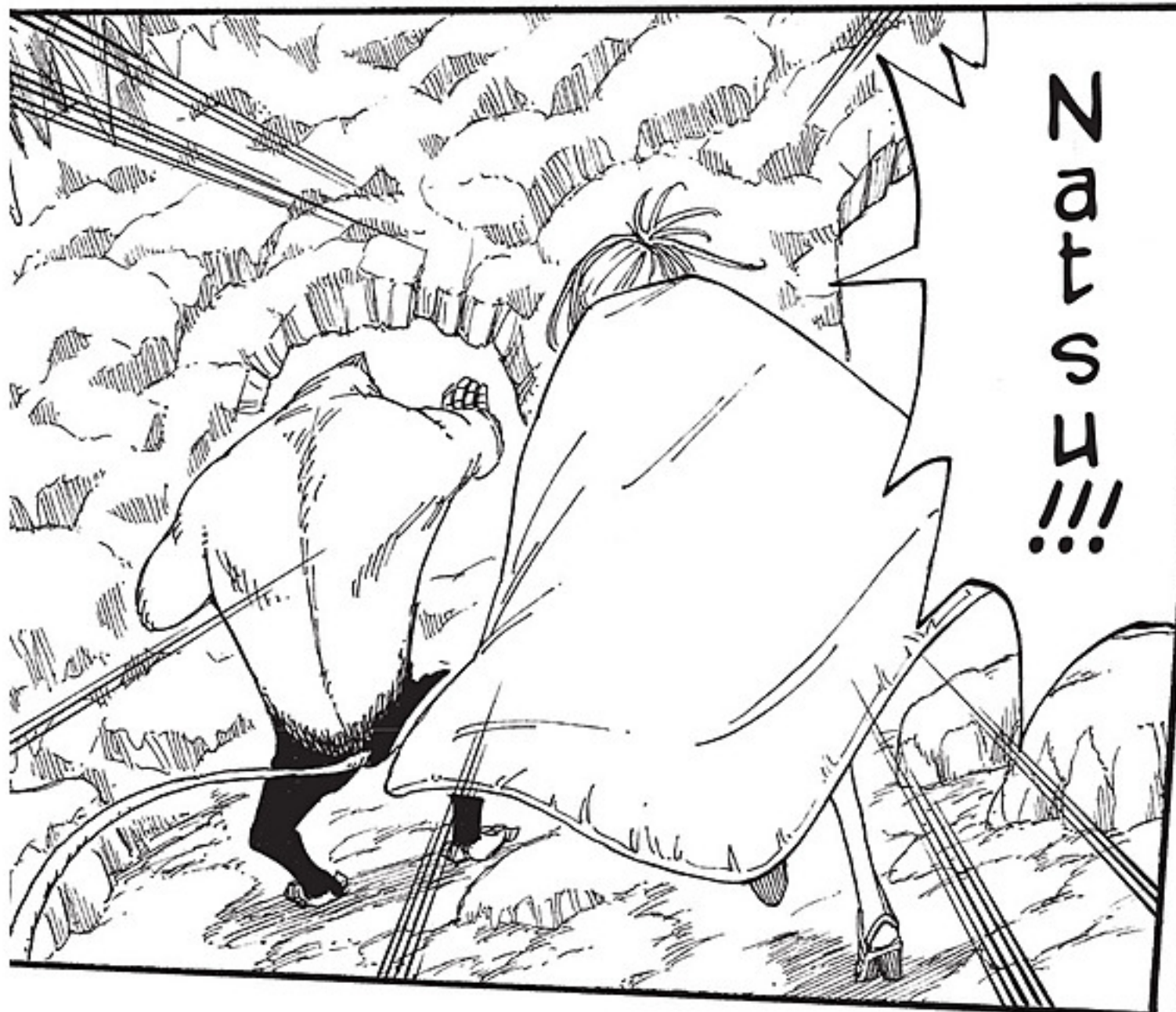
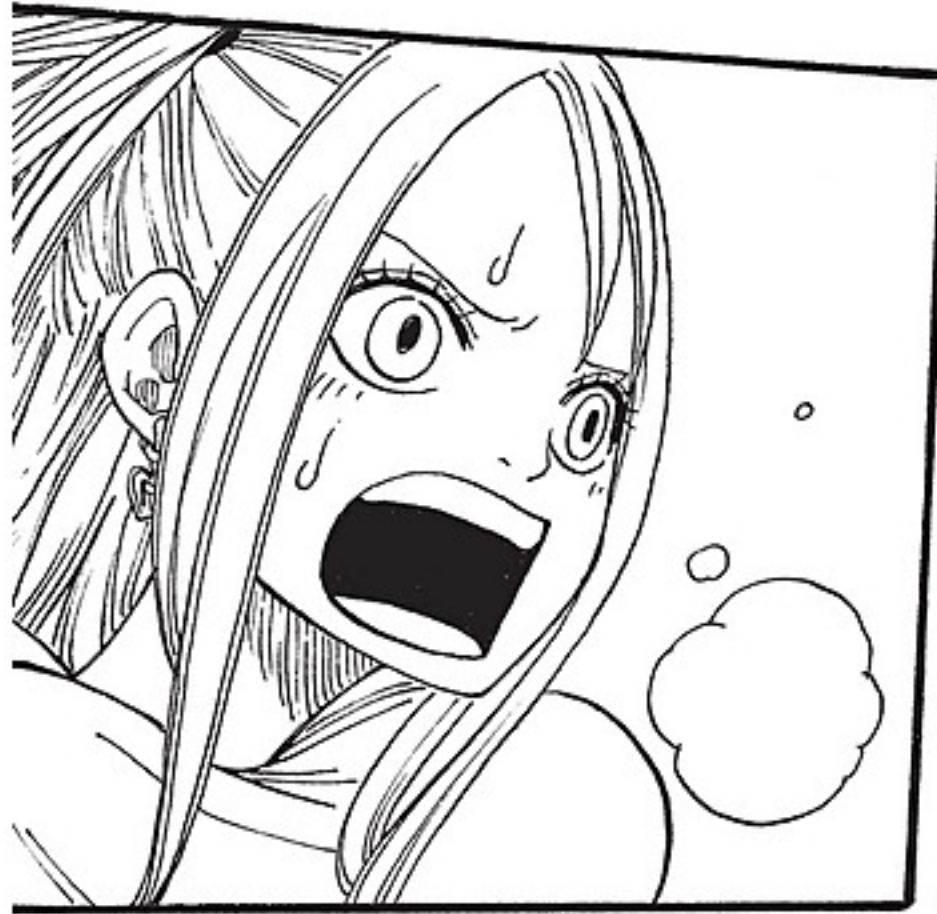
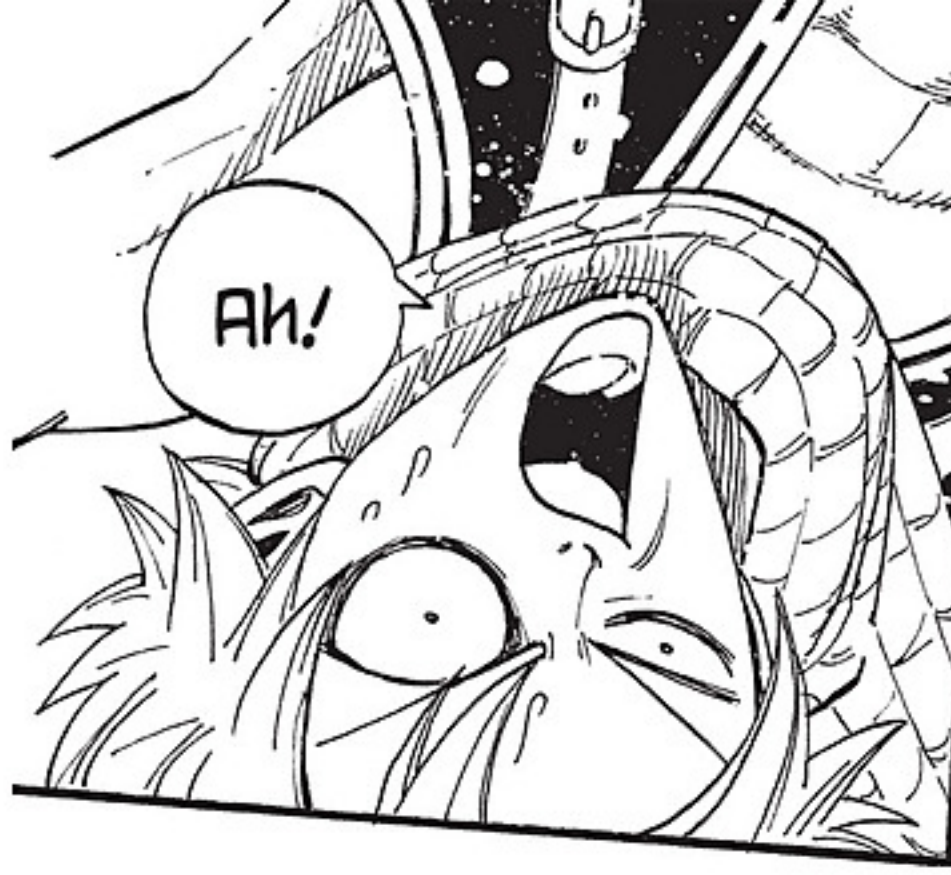
FAIRY TAIL



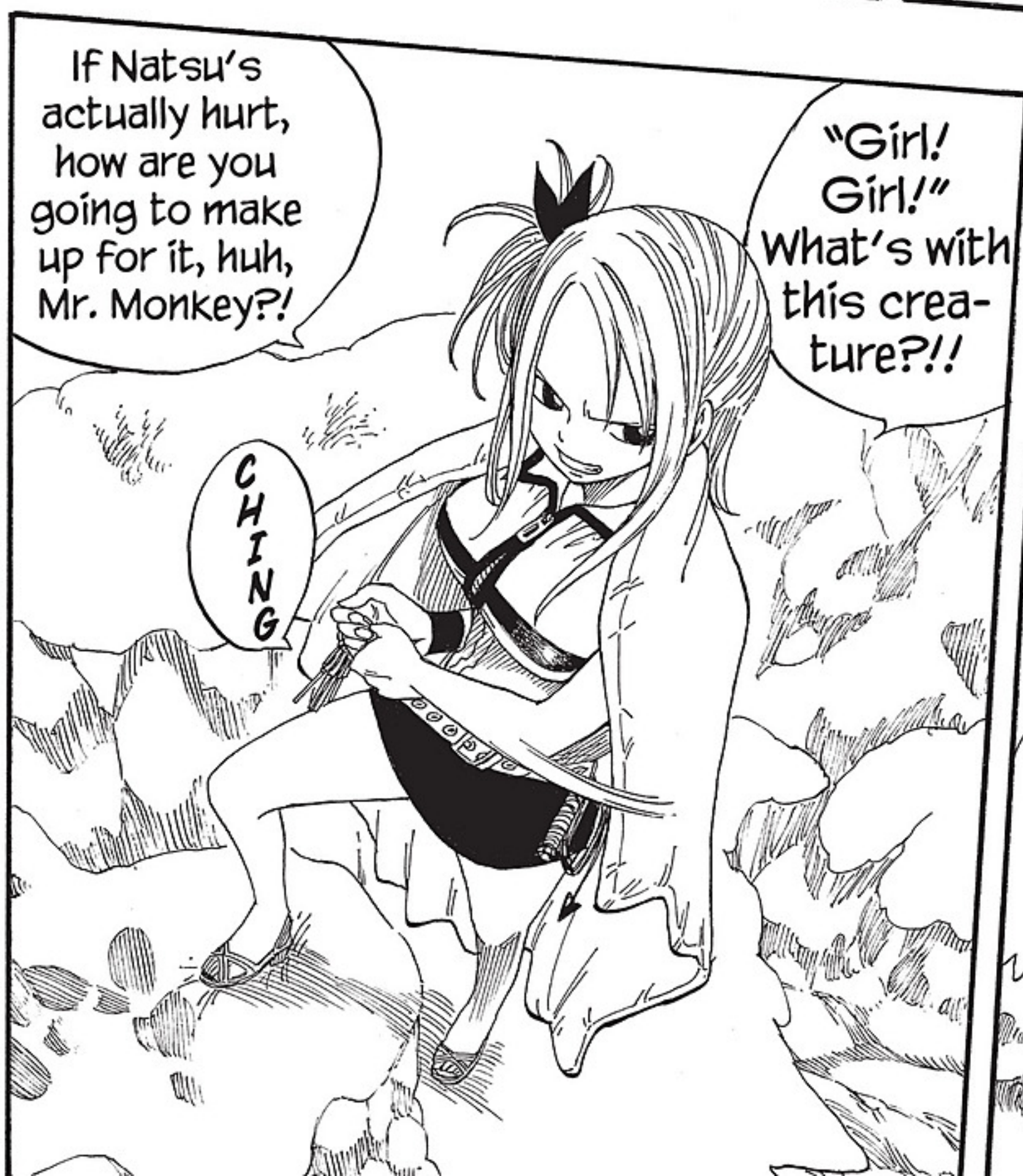
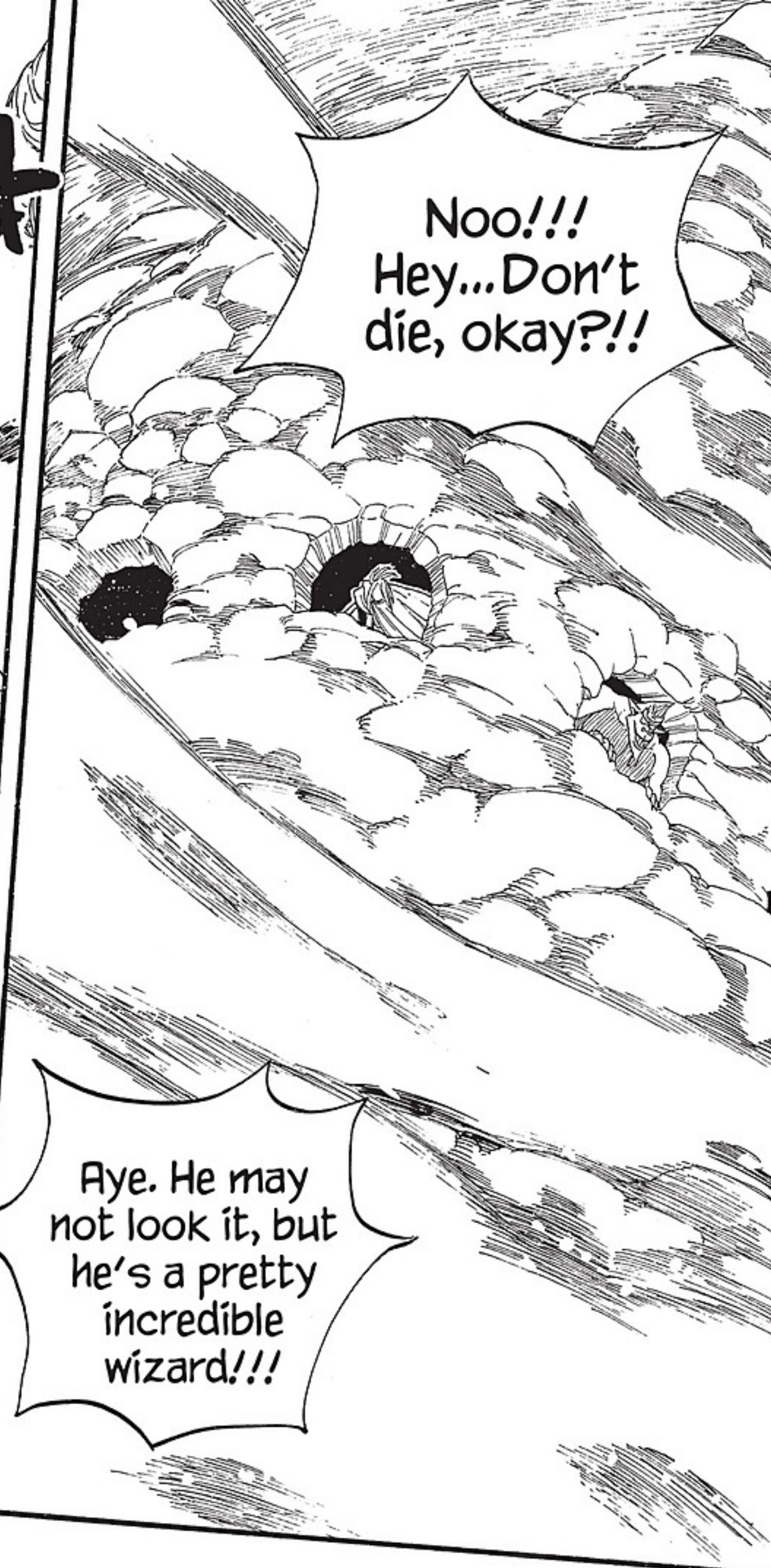
Chapter 3: Fire Dragons and Monkeys and Cows

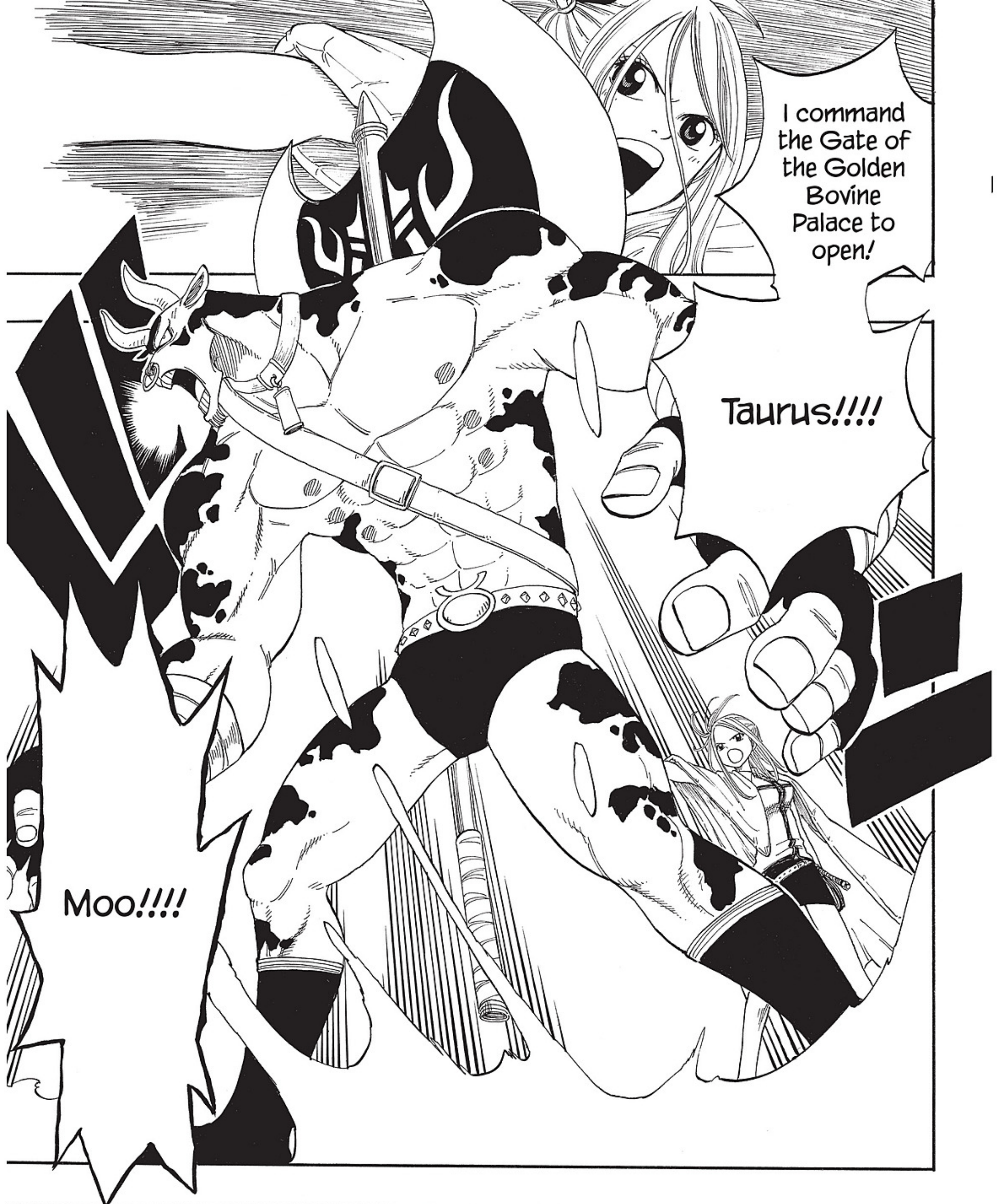












I command
the Gate of
the Golden
Bovine
Palace to
open!

Taurus!!!!

Moo!!!!

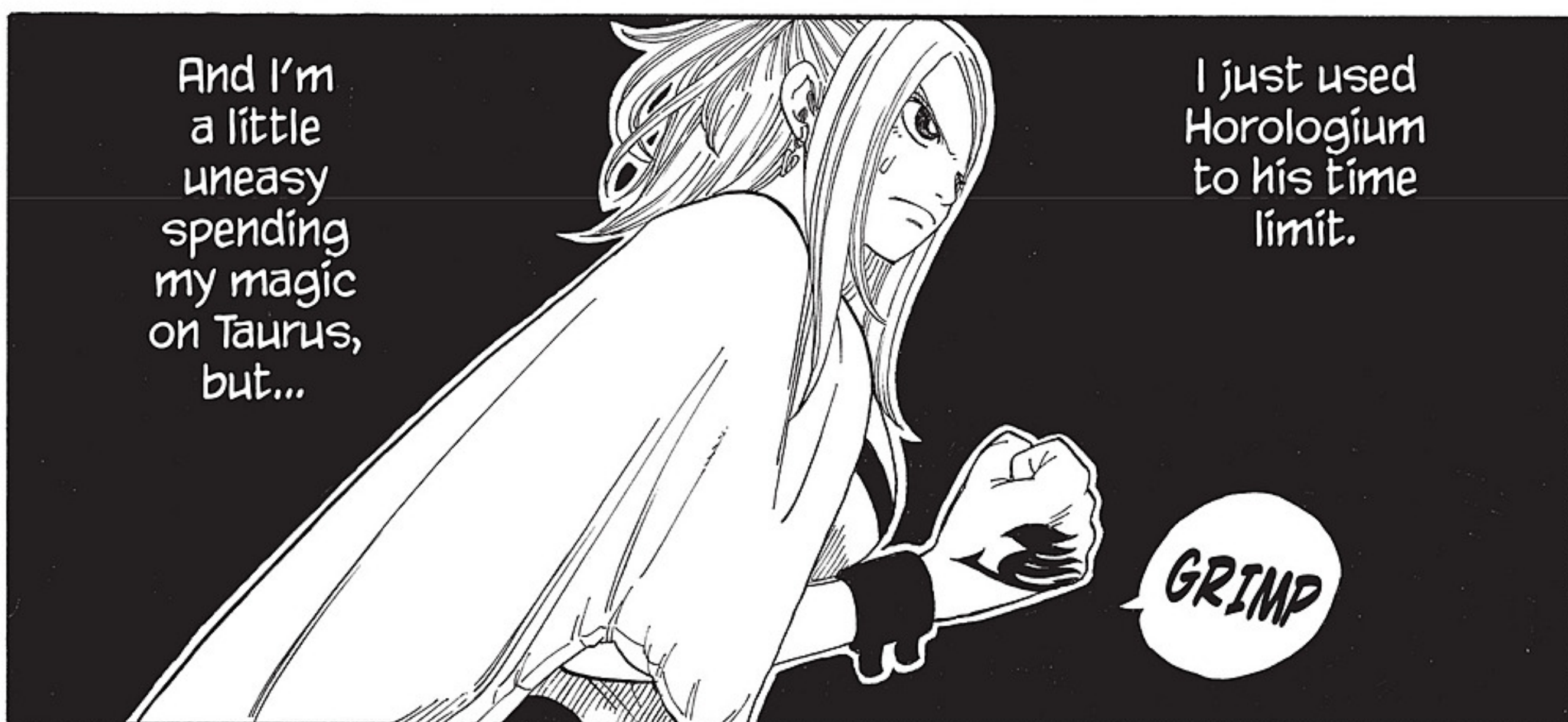
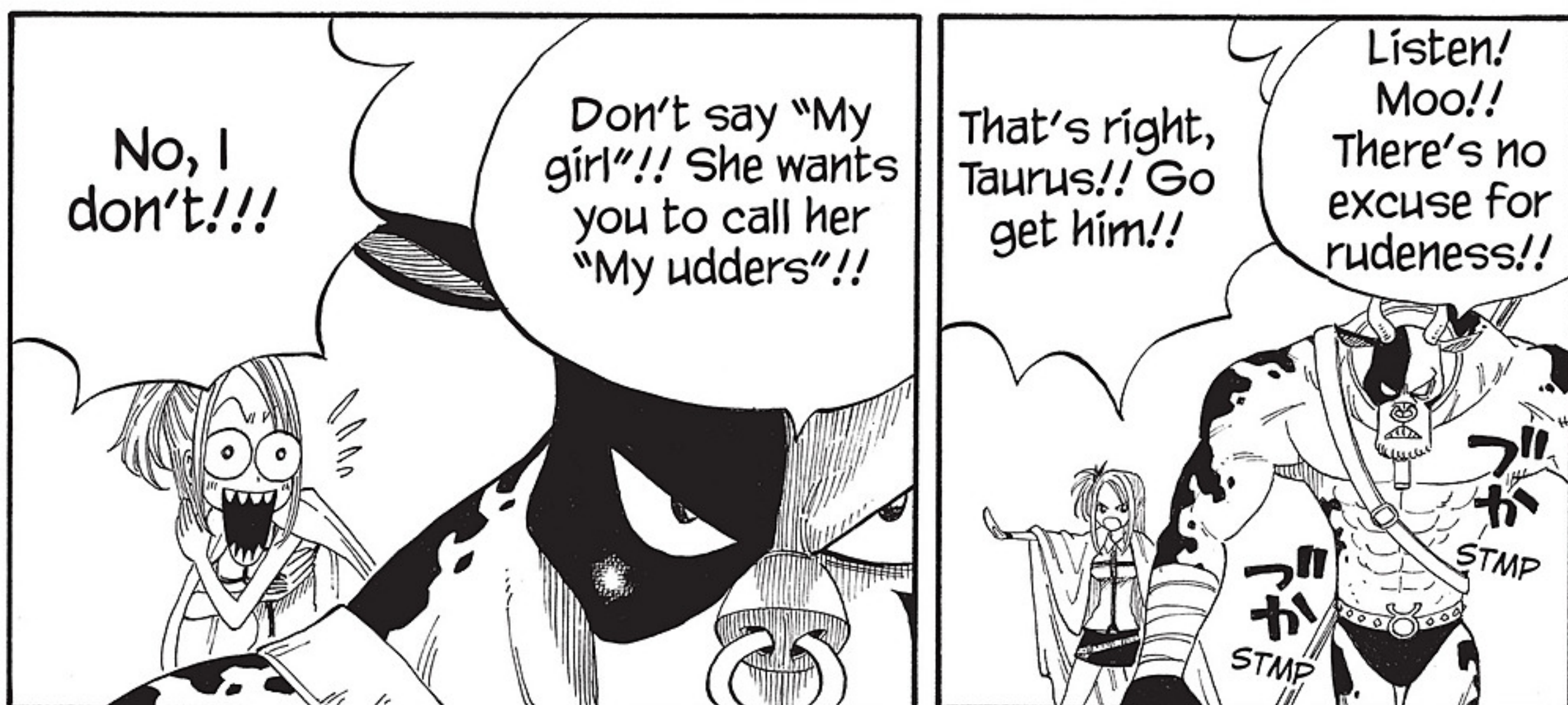
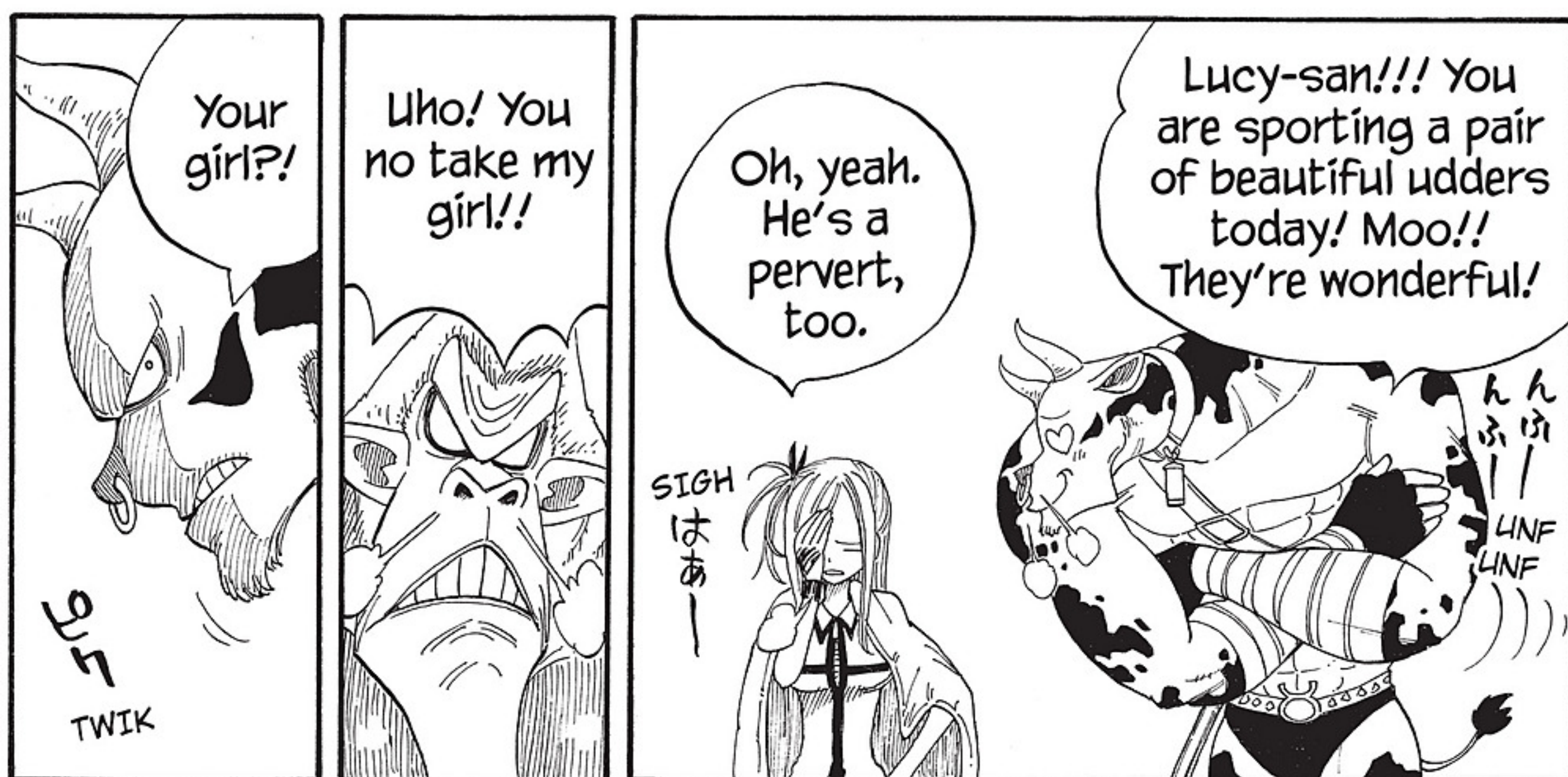


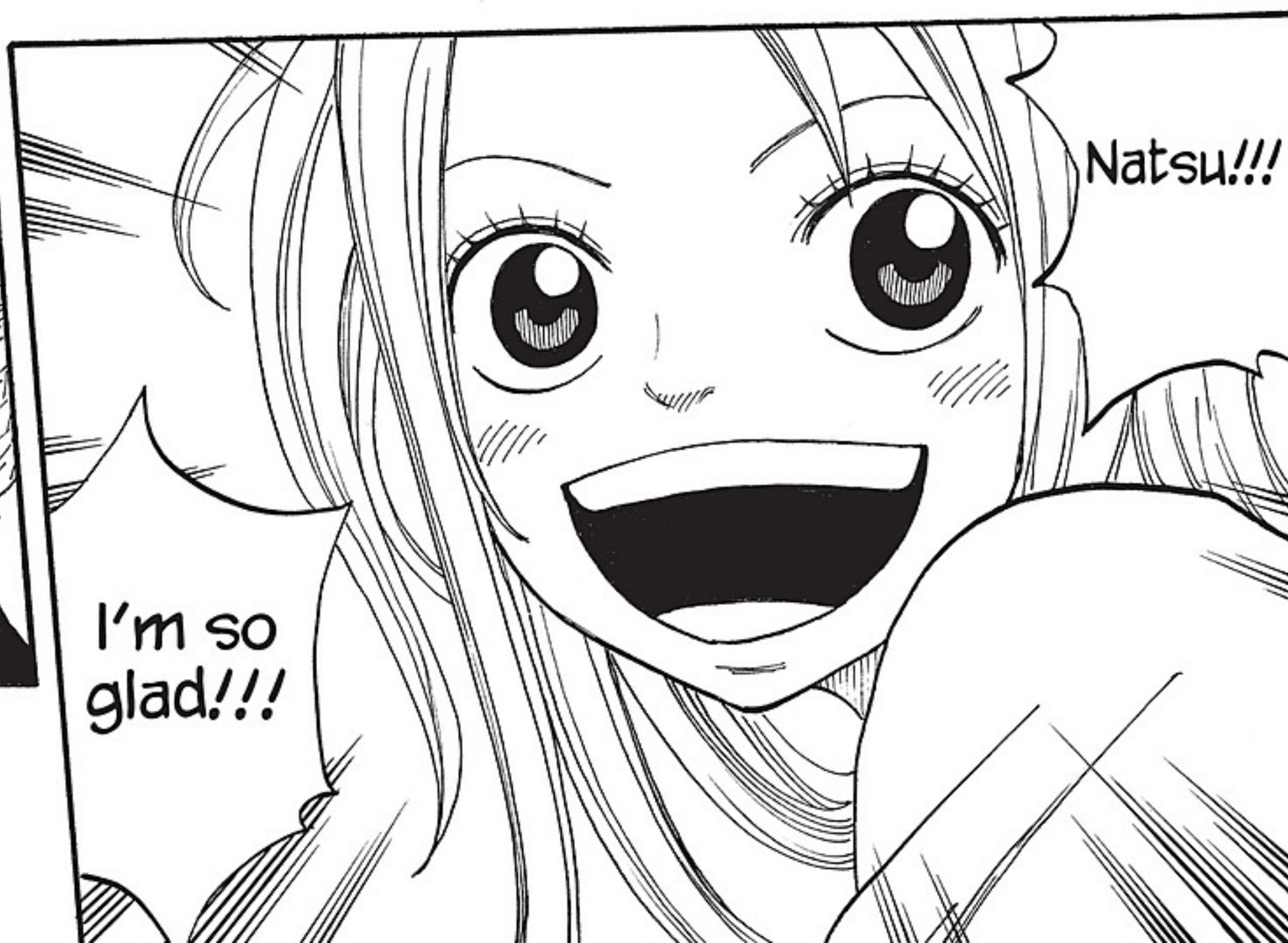
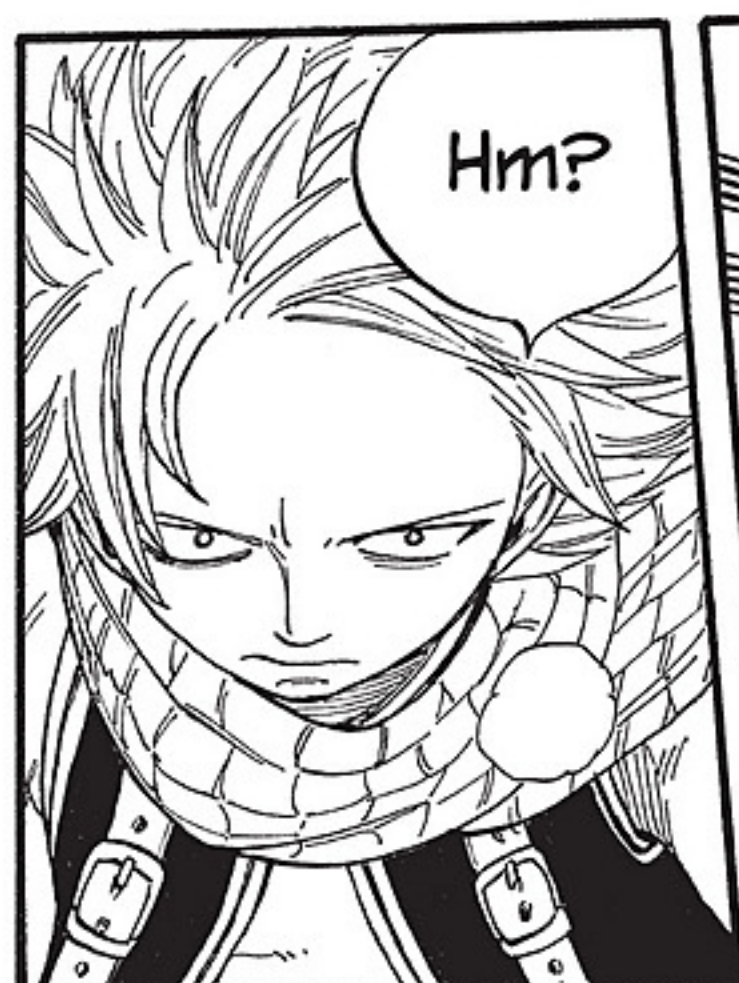
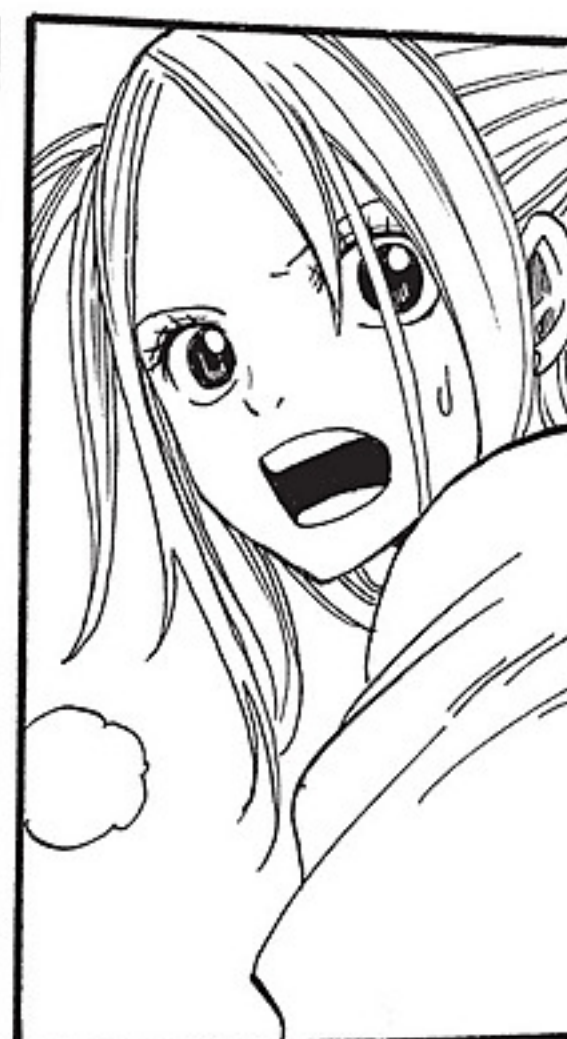
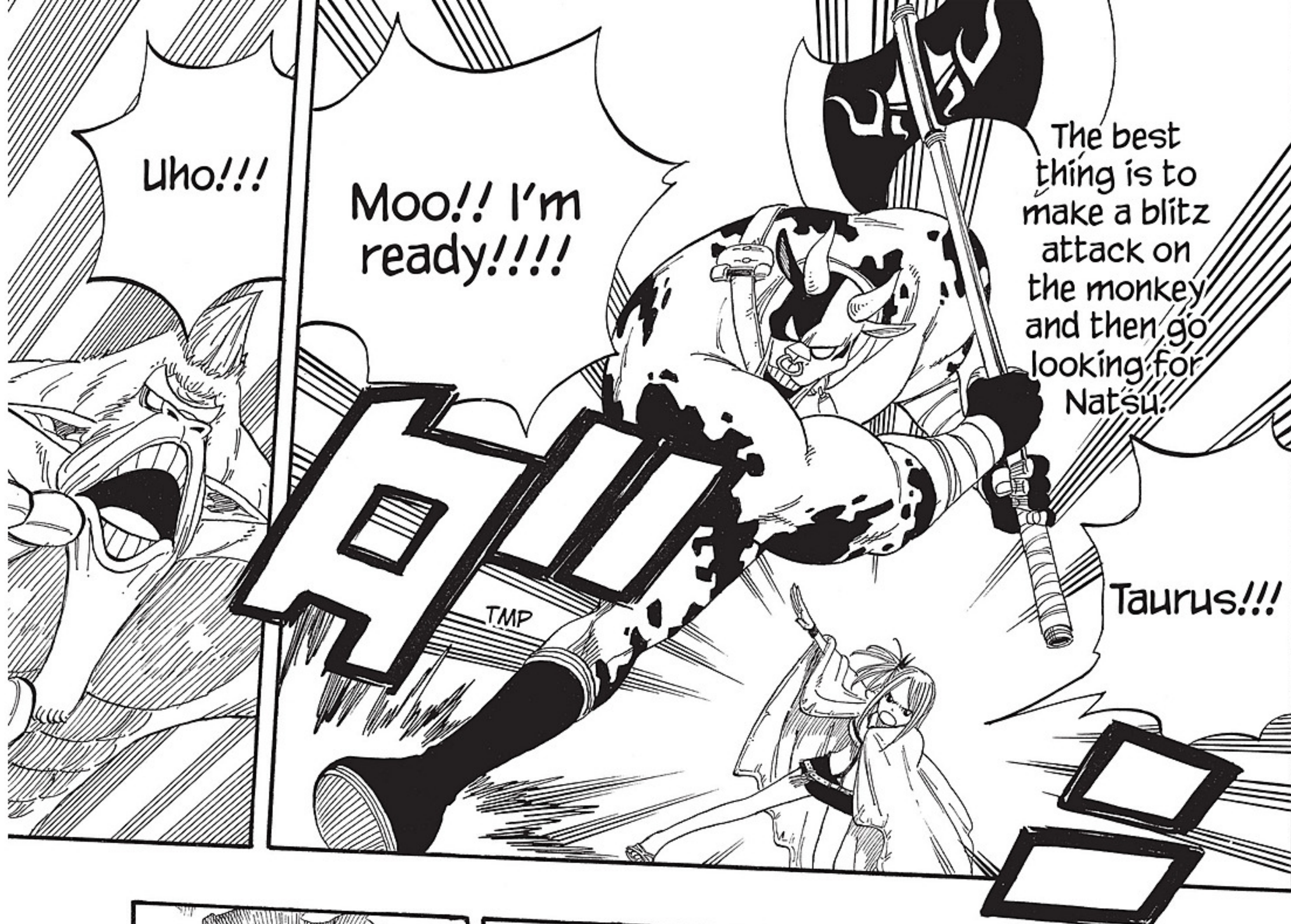
You
perverted
ape!!

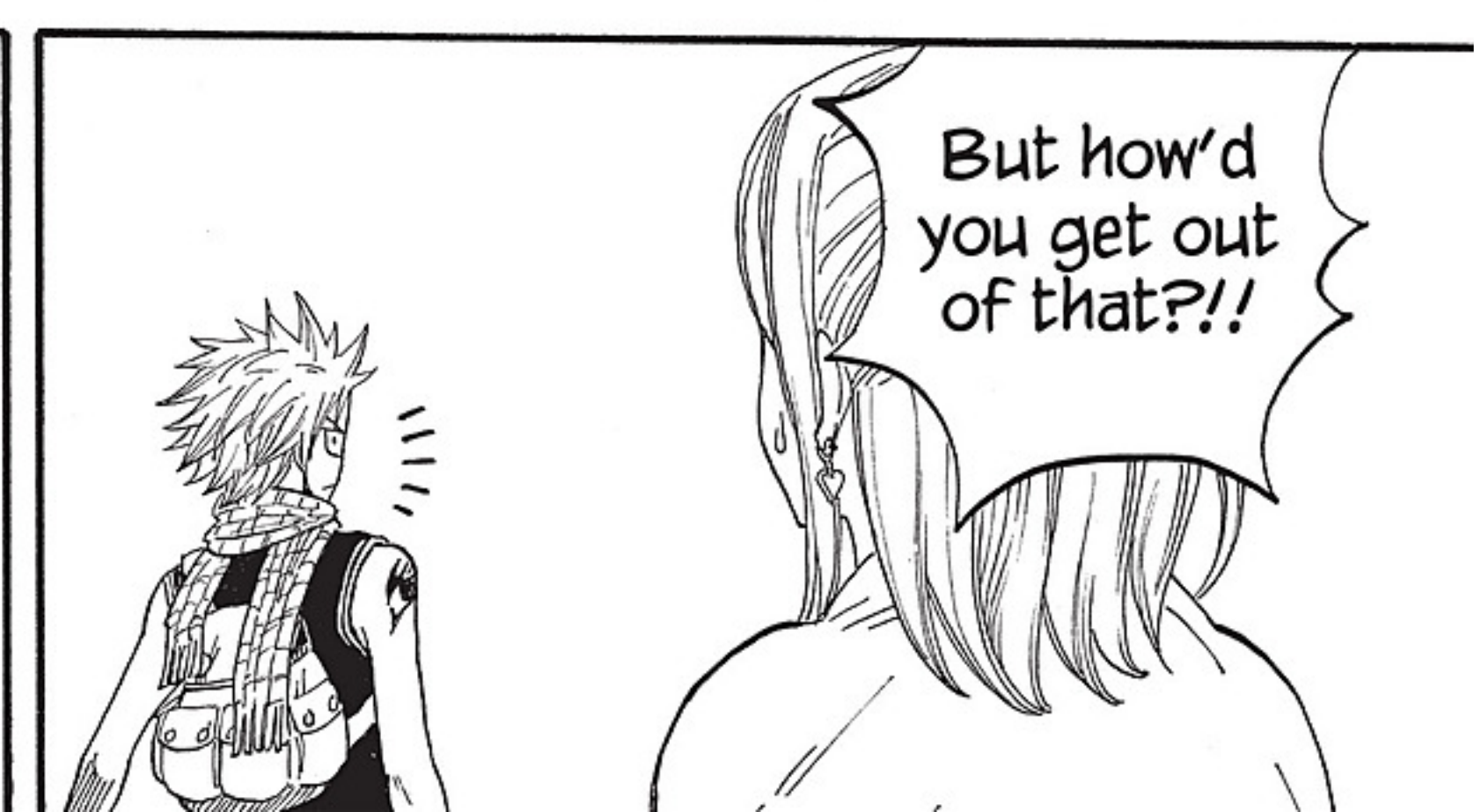
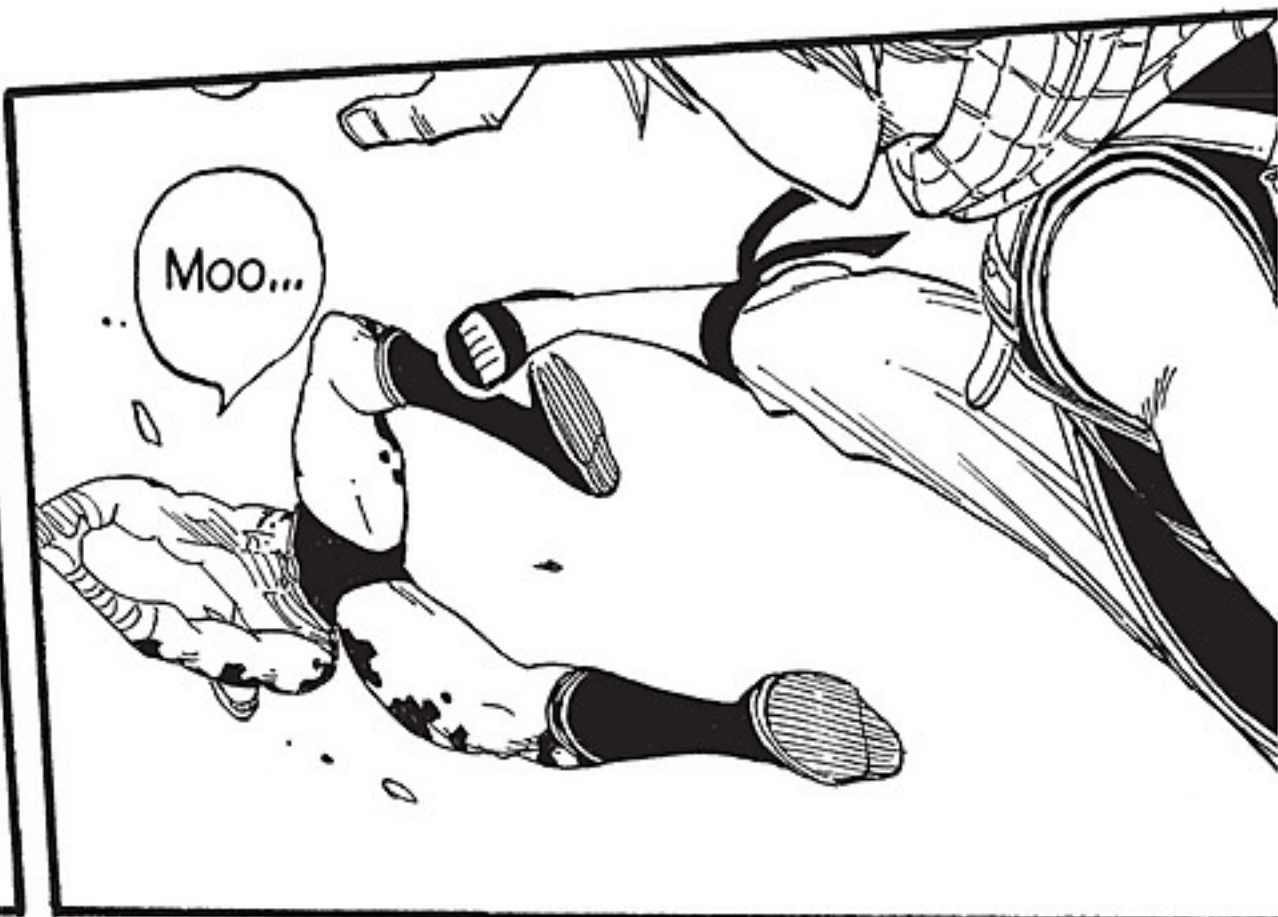
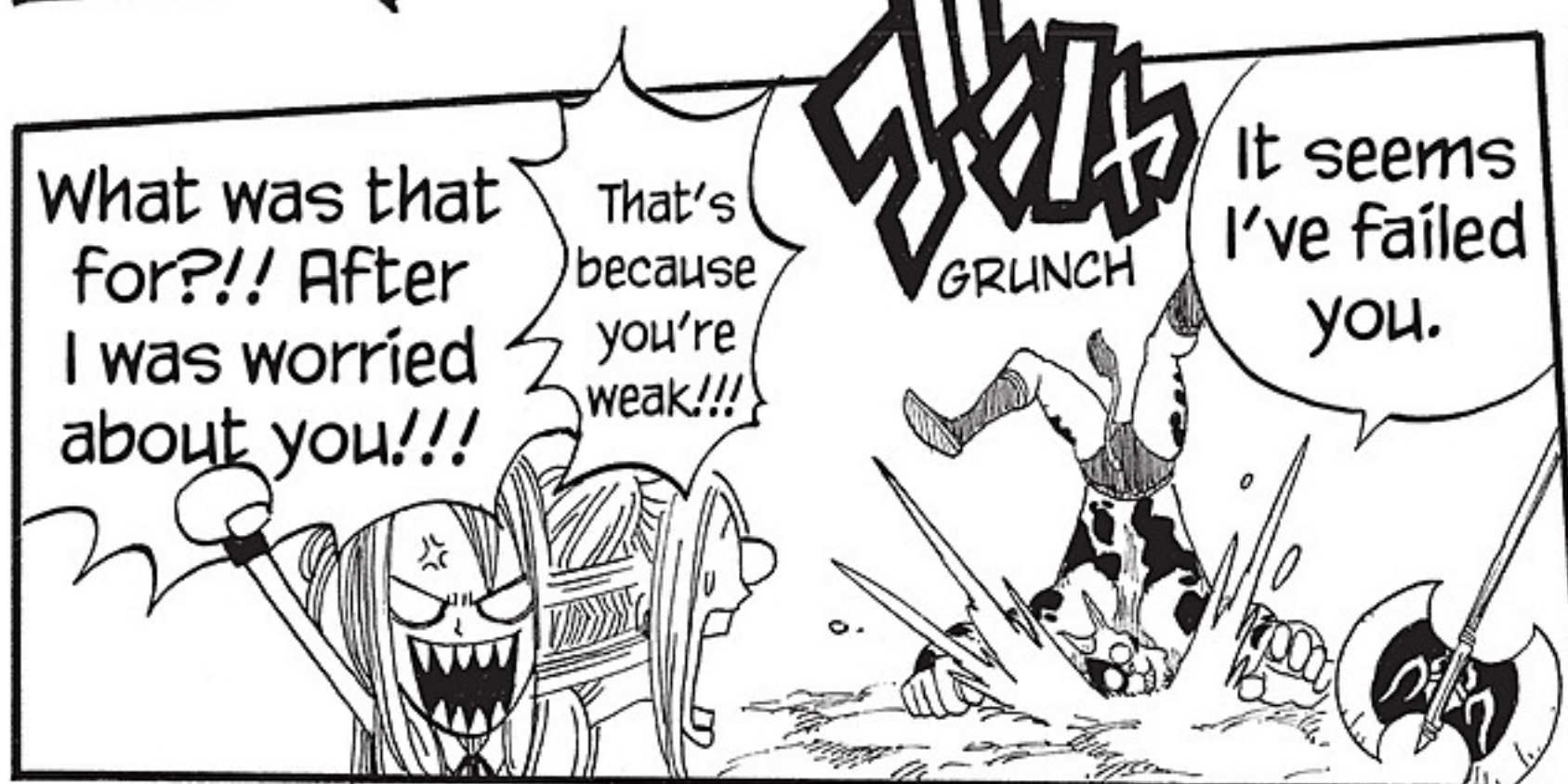
You are
now facing
Taurus!! The
most powerful
celestial
spirit I have
contracted!!!



Cow?!!







You're welcome.

Happy did all the work!

Thanks!

So that's it. I'd forgotten that Happy had wings.

Aye. It's a special magic ability called Aera.

はろ
た
FLAPPA
FLAPPA

はろ
た
FLAPPA



What are you talking about?!

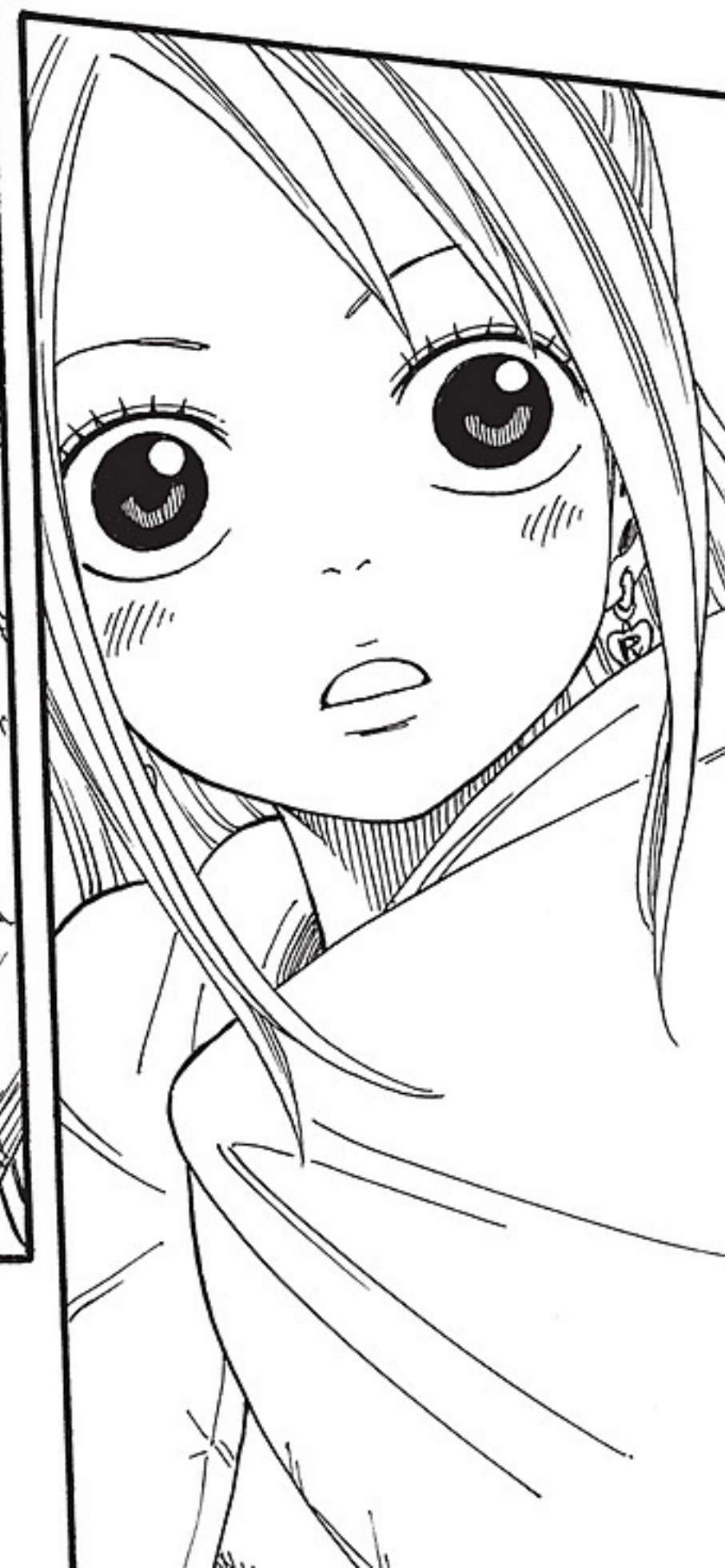
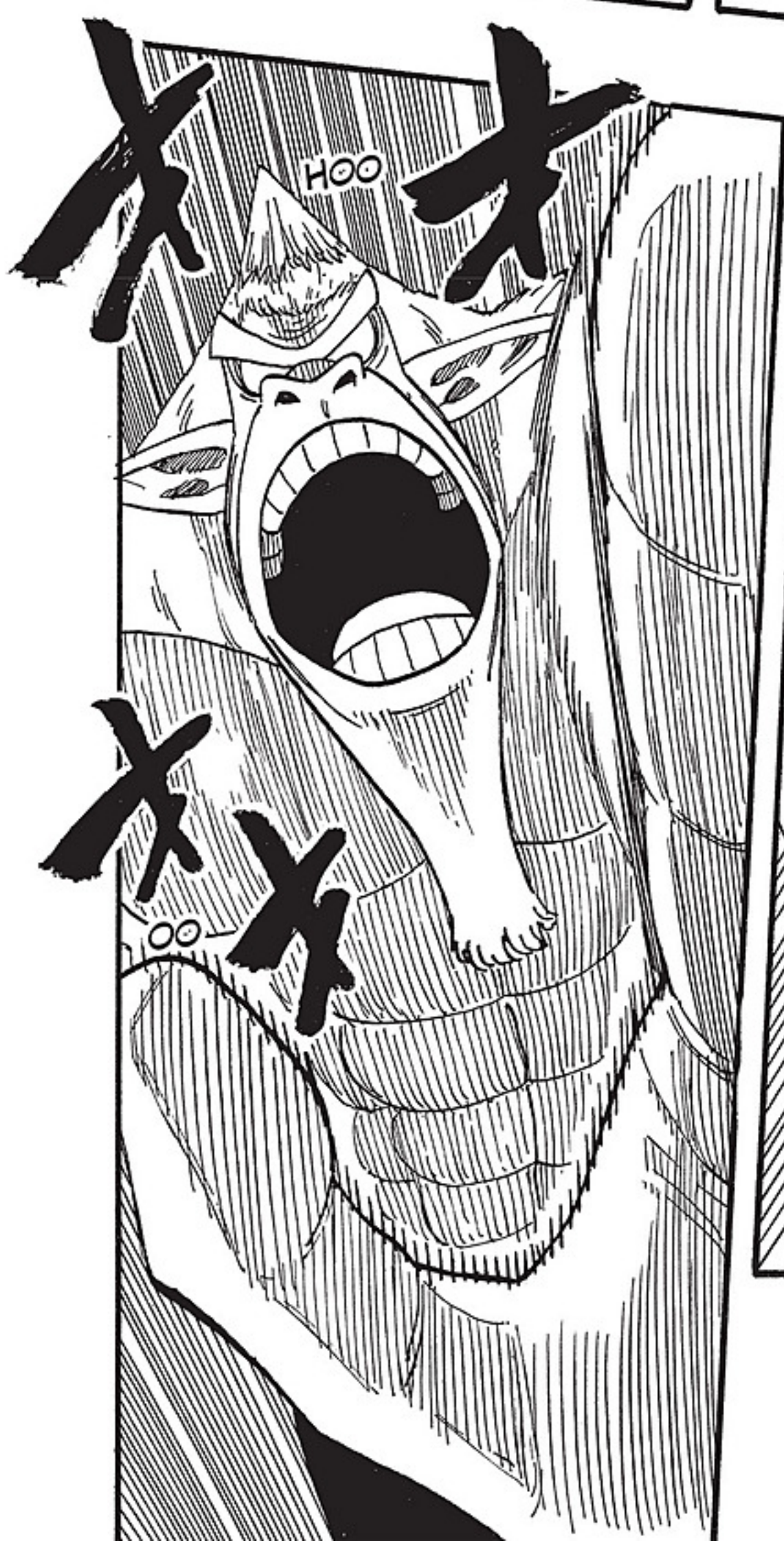
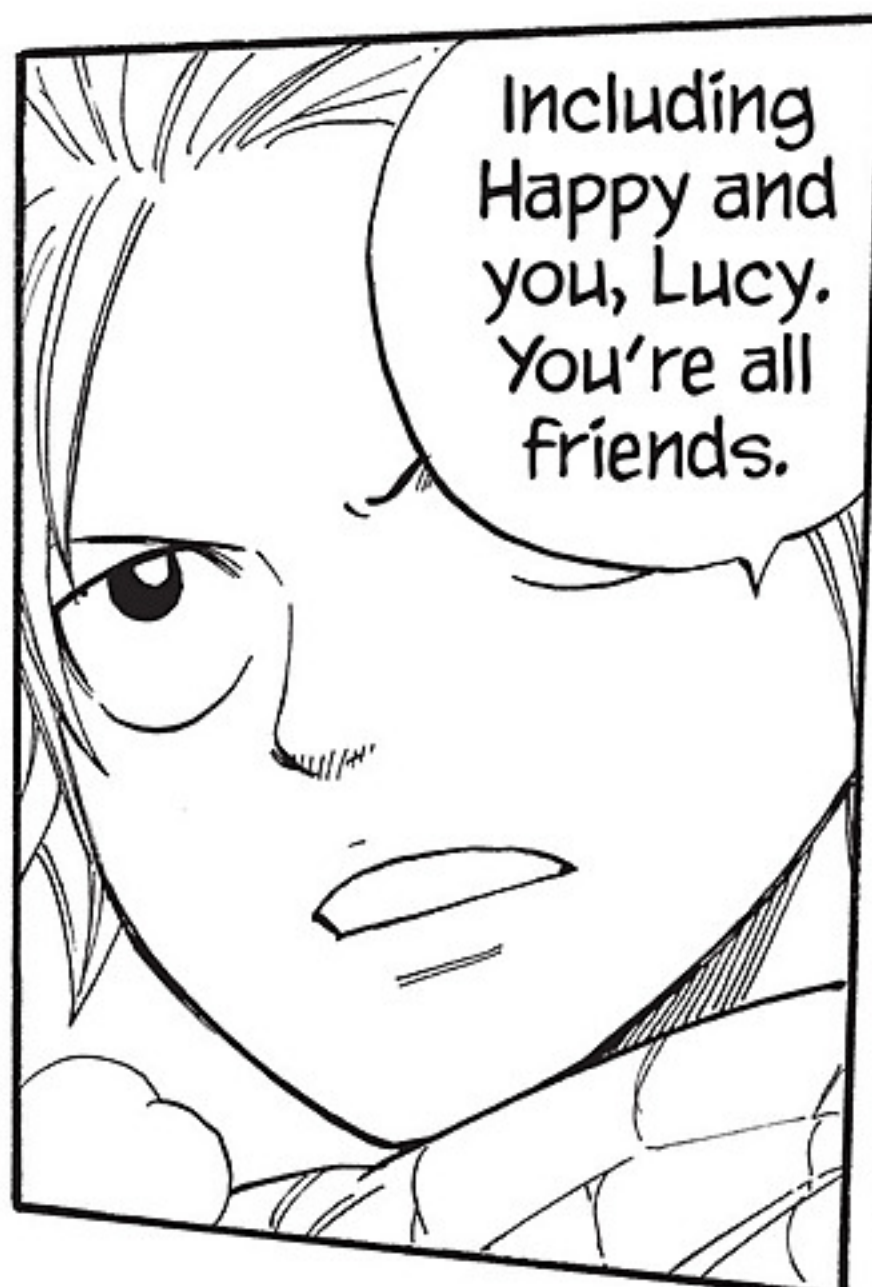
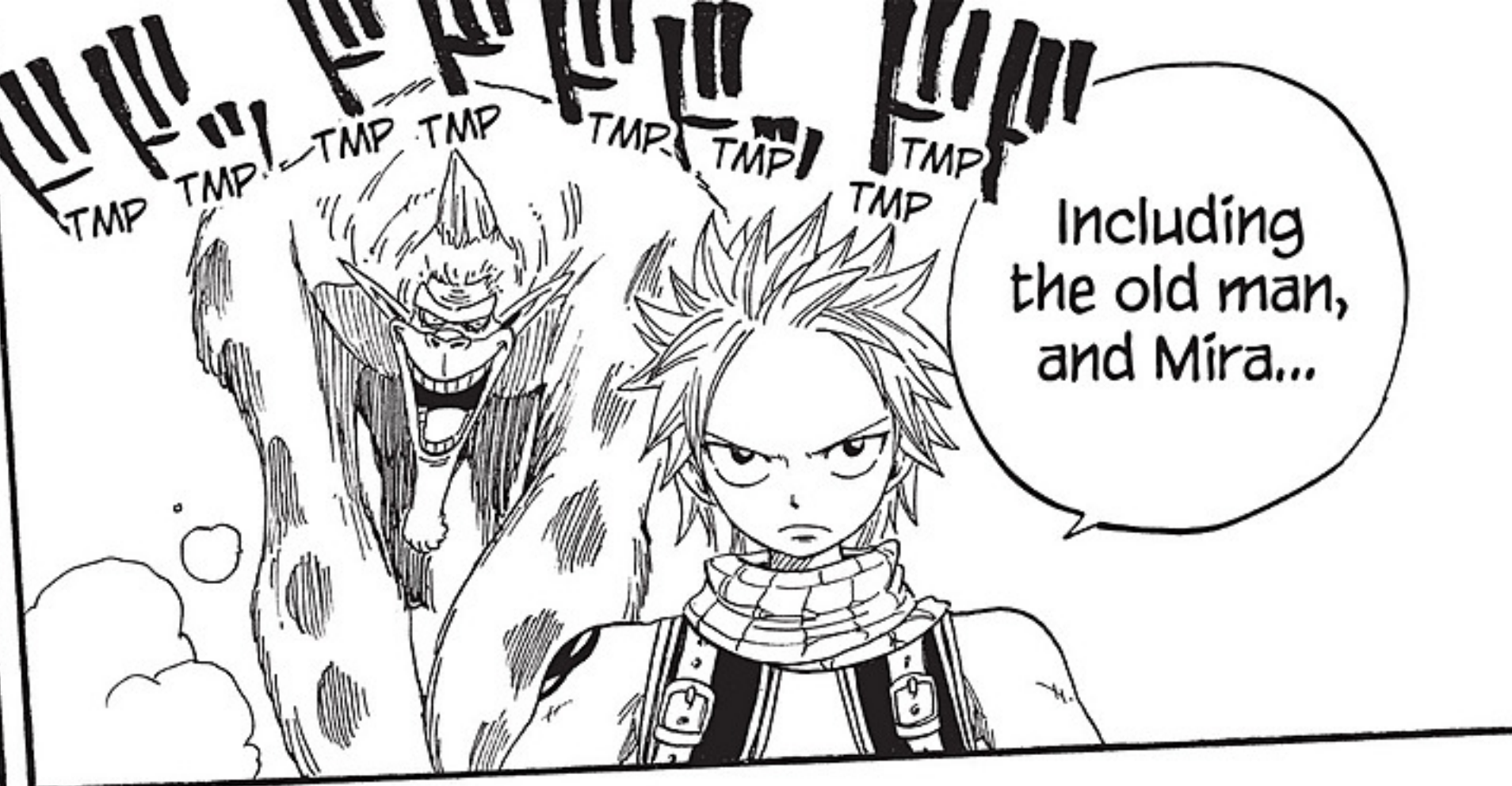
You get sick on all moving things, but you're okay riding Happy?

Y-You're right! Sorry!

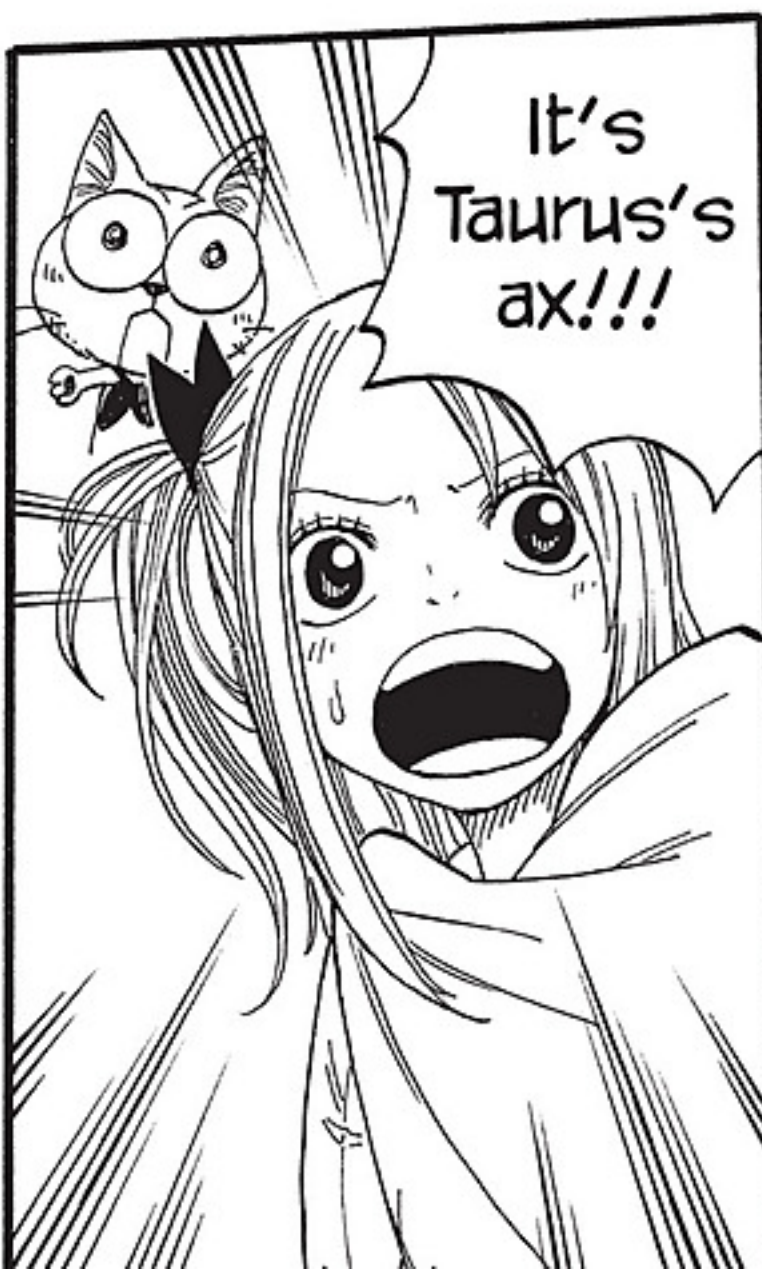
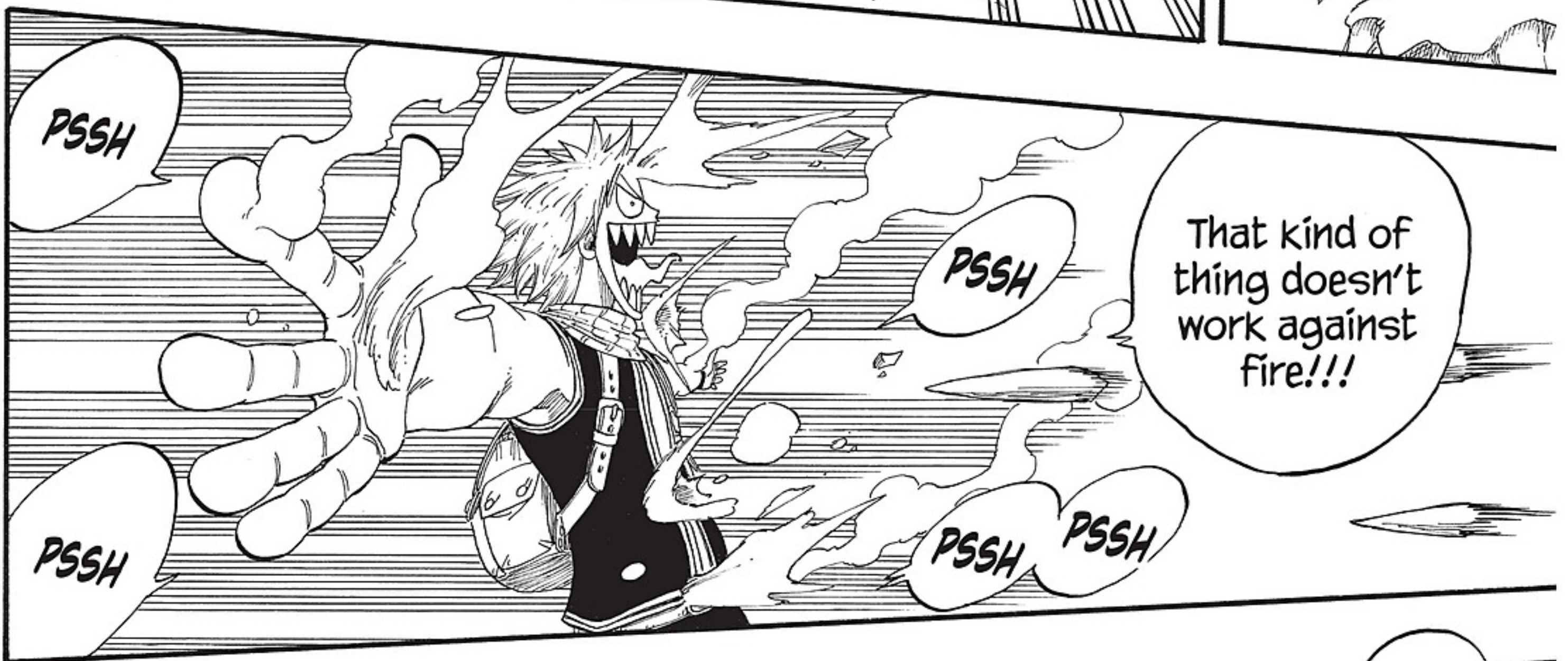
Happy isn't a "moving thing!" He's a friend!

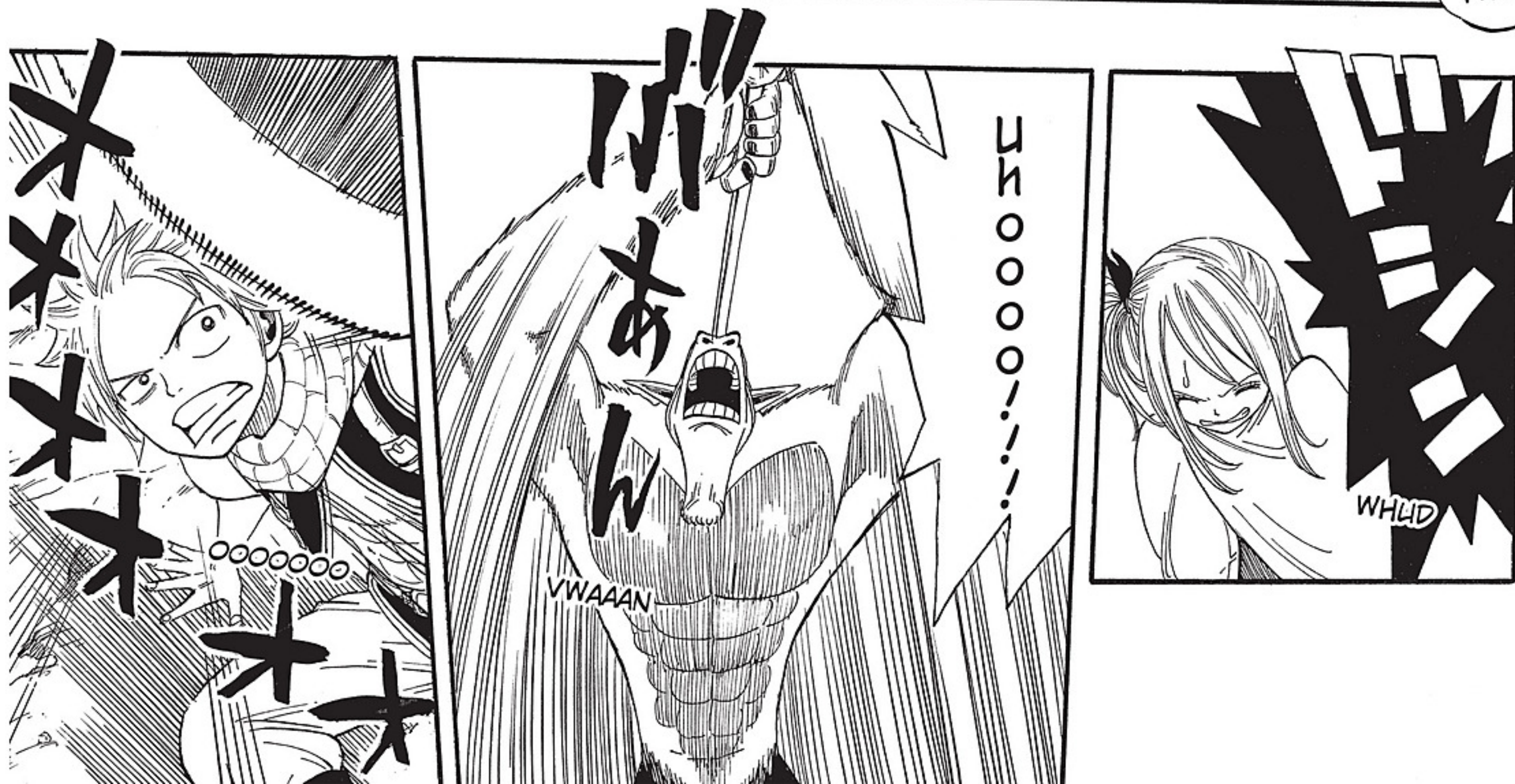
Get away from me!!

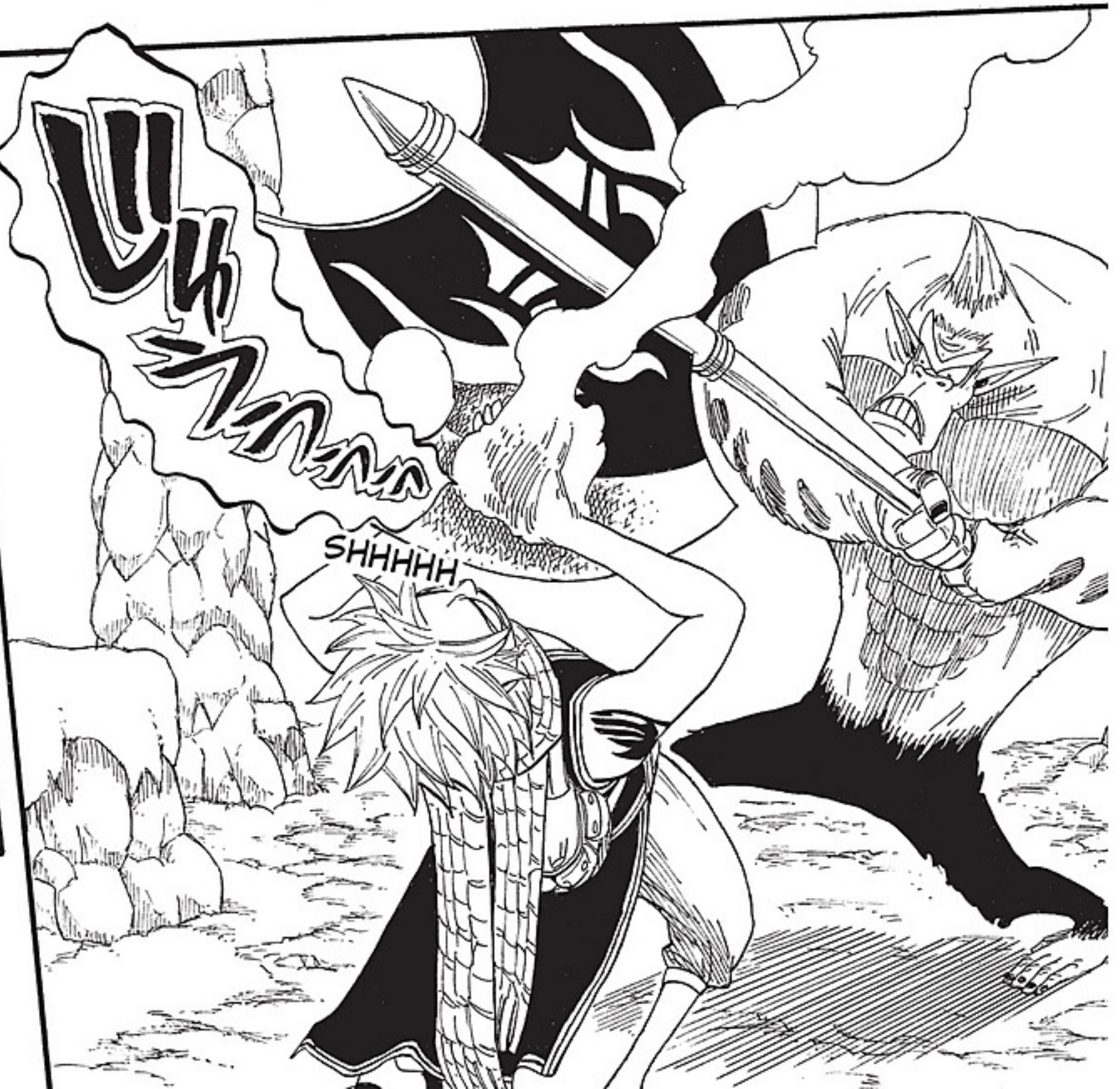
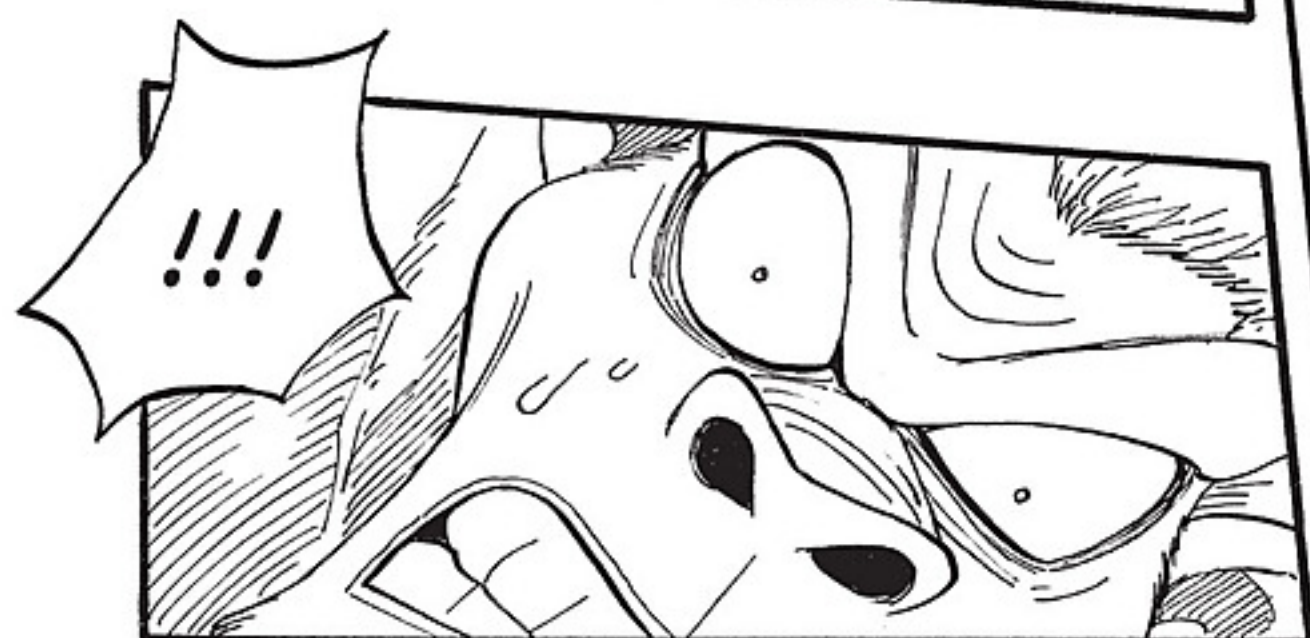
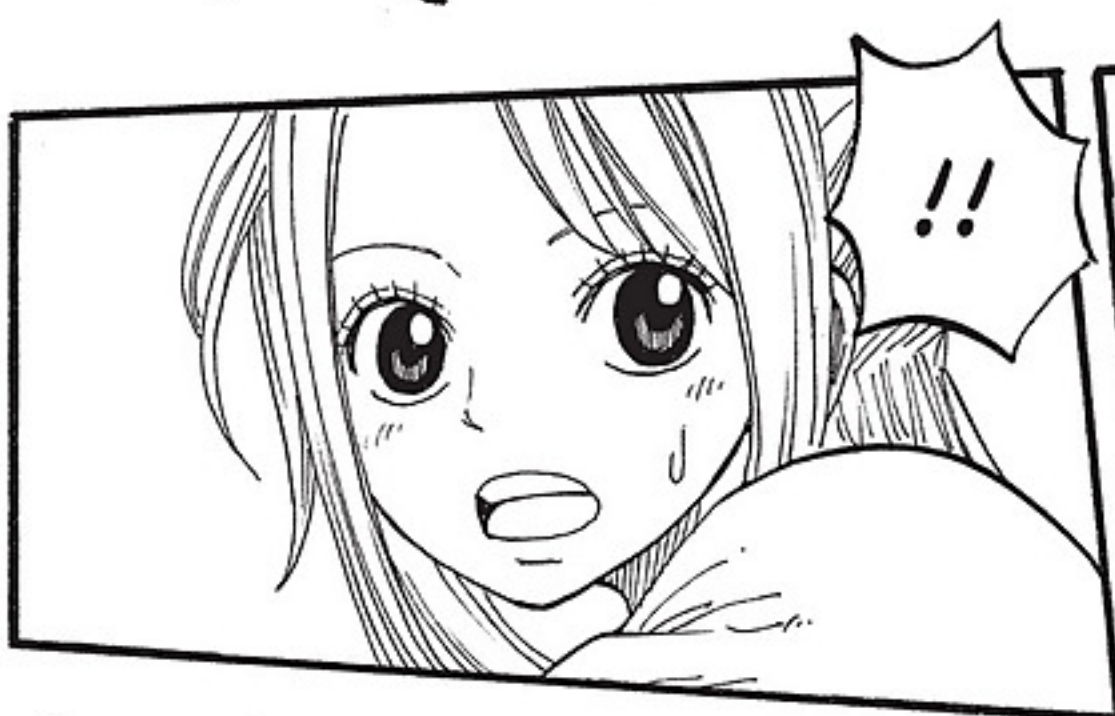
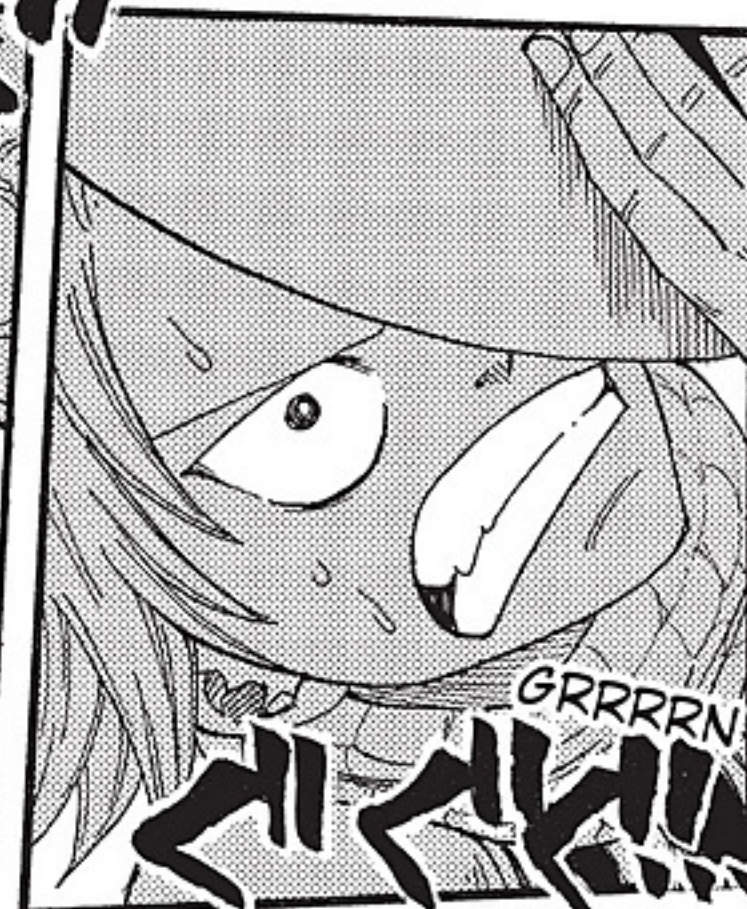
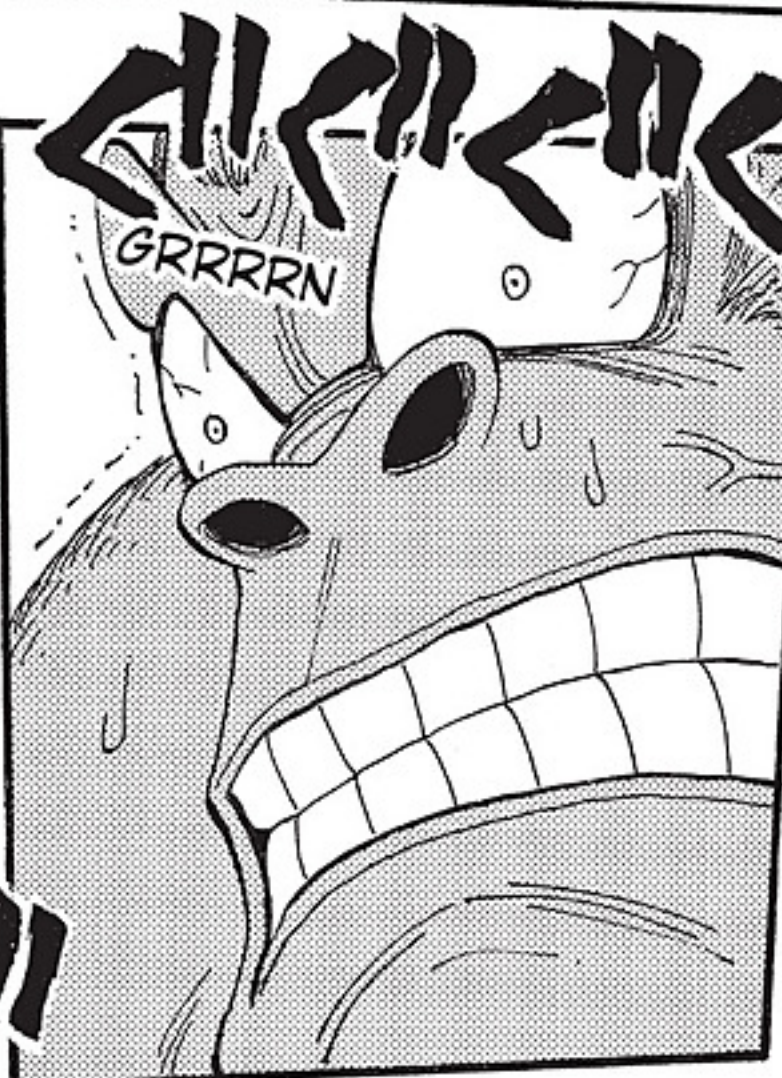
He's backing away!

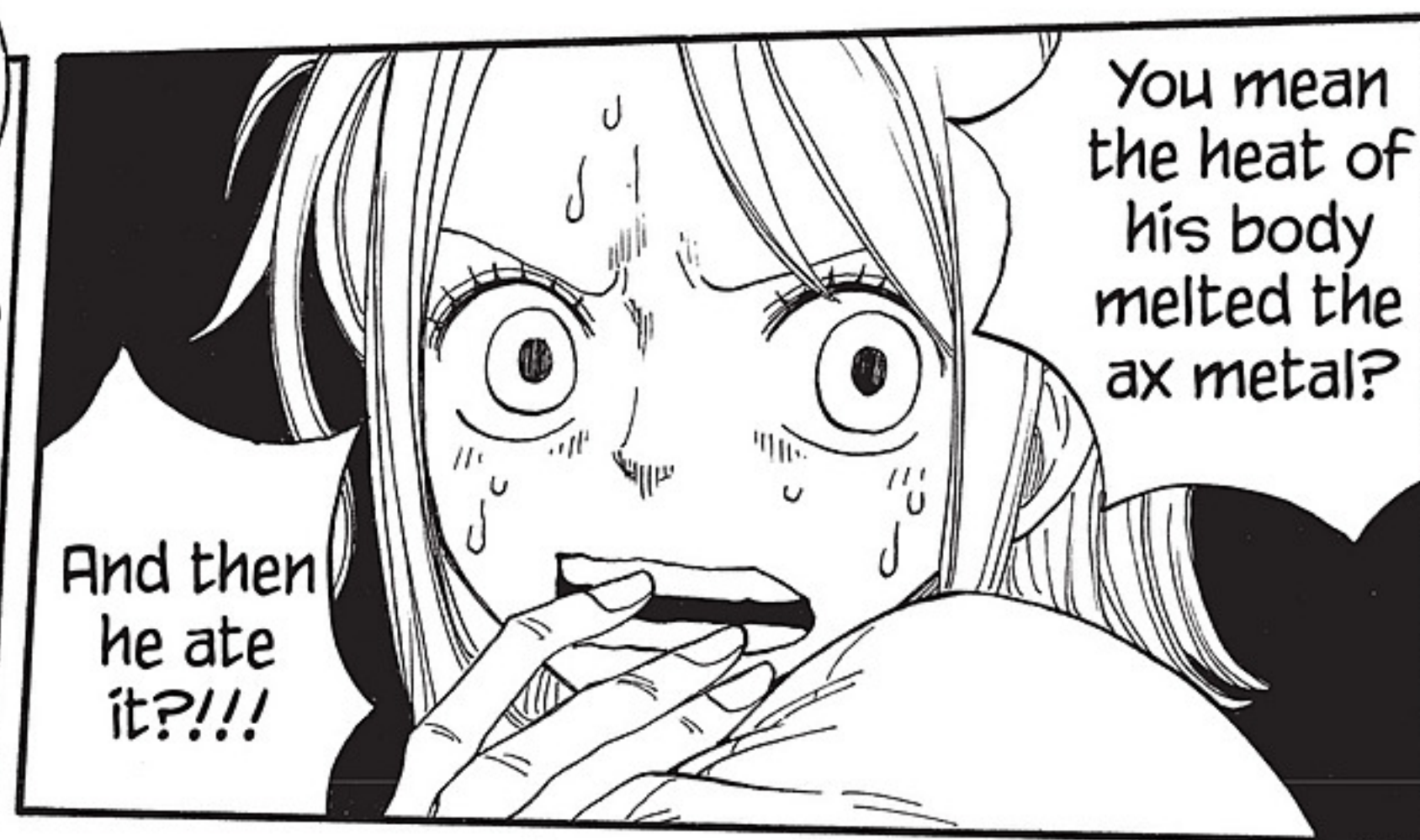
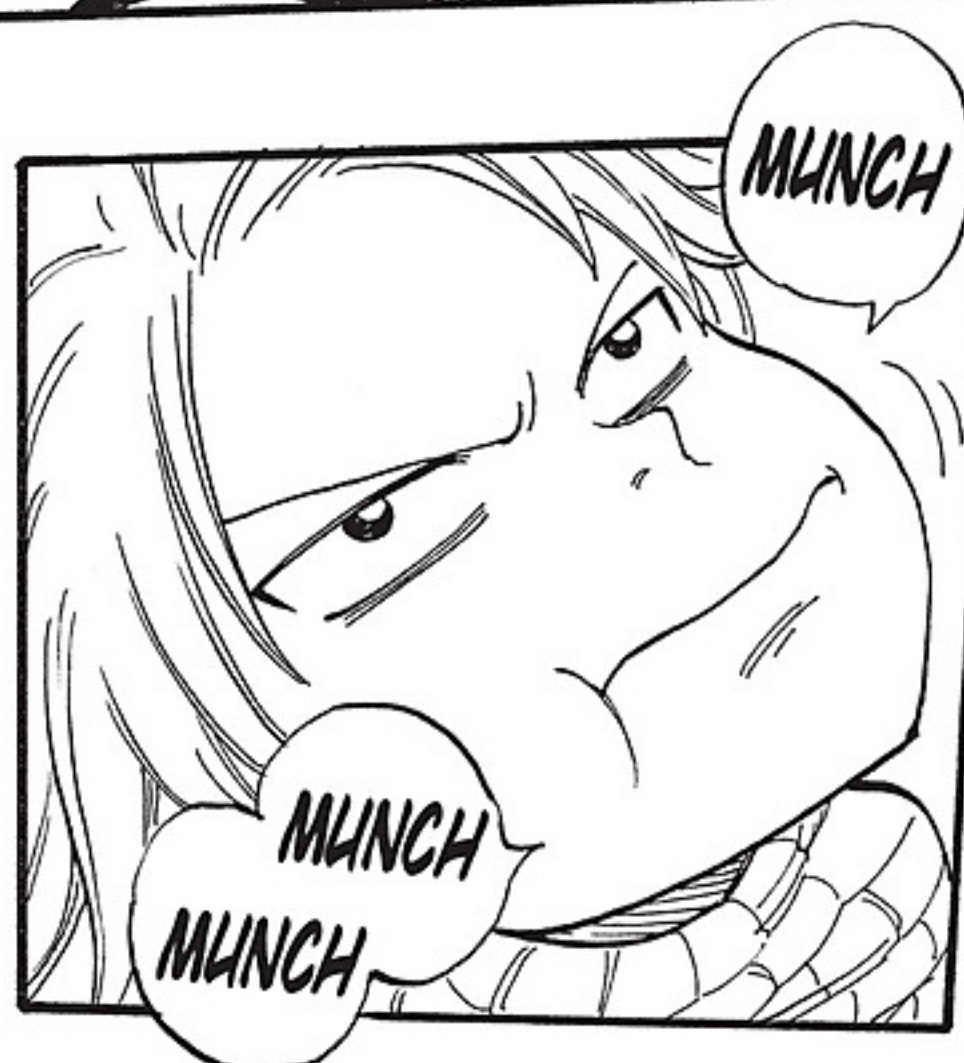
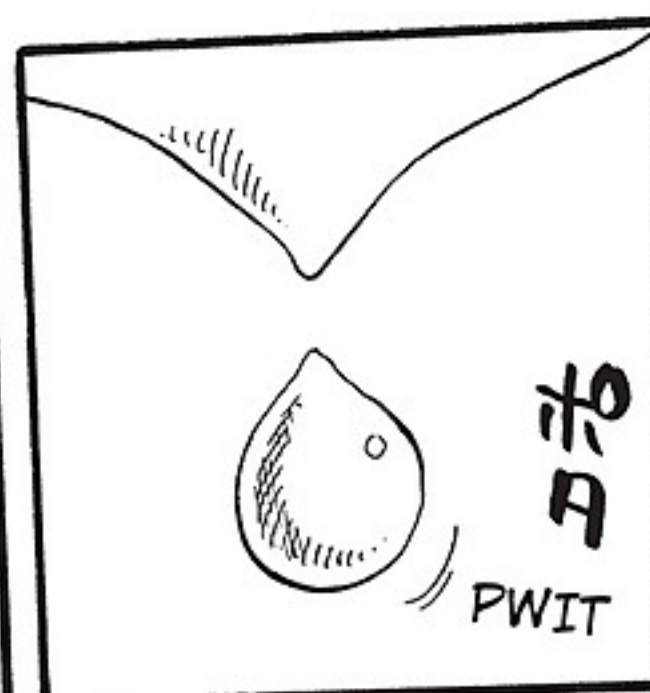
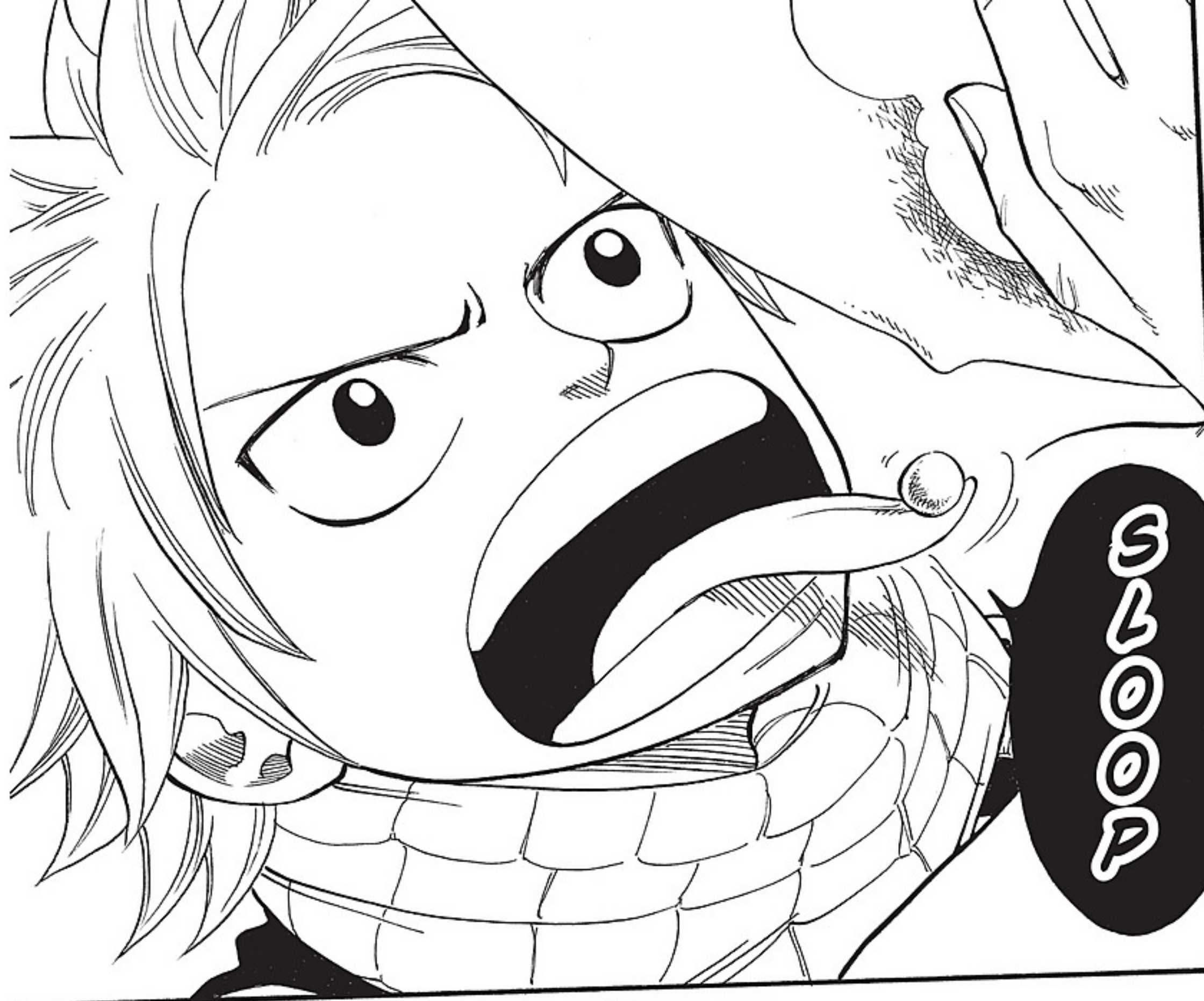






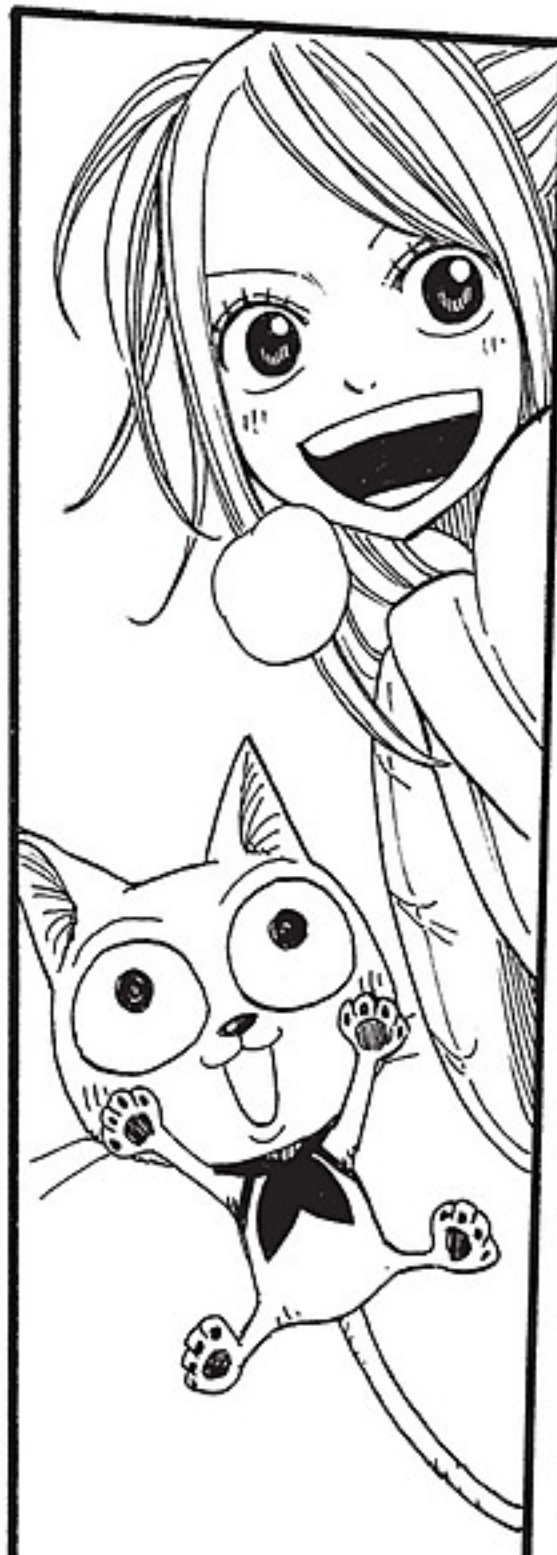


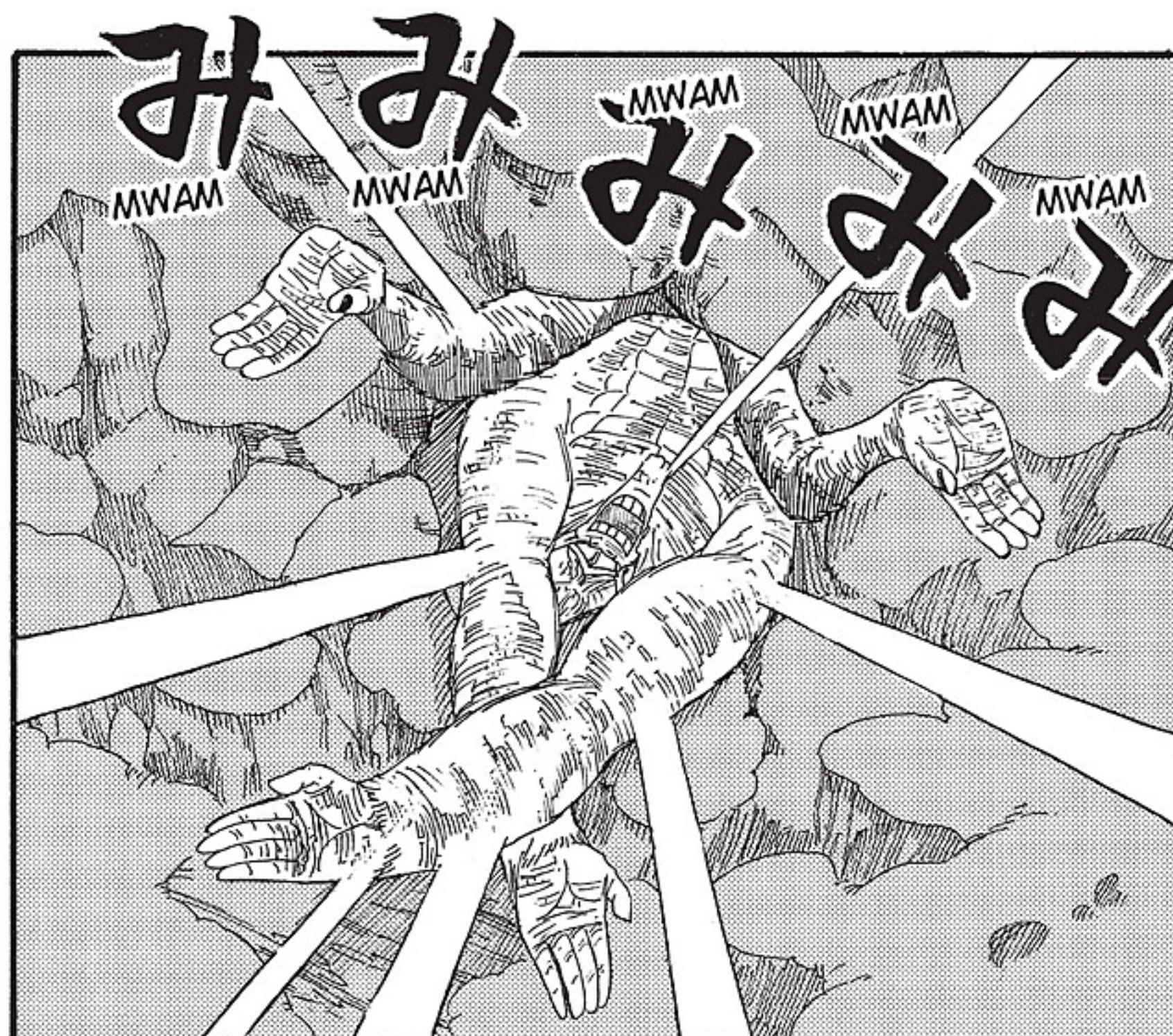
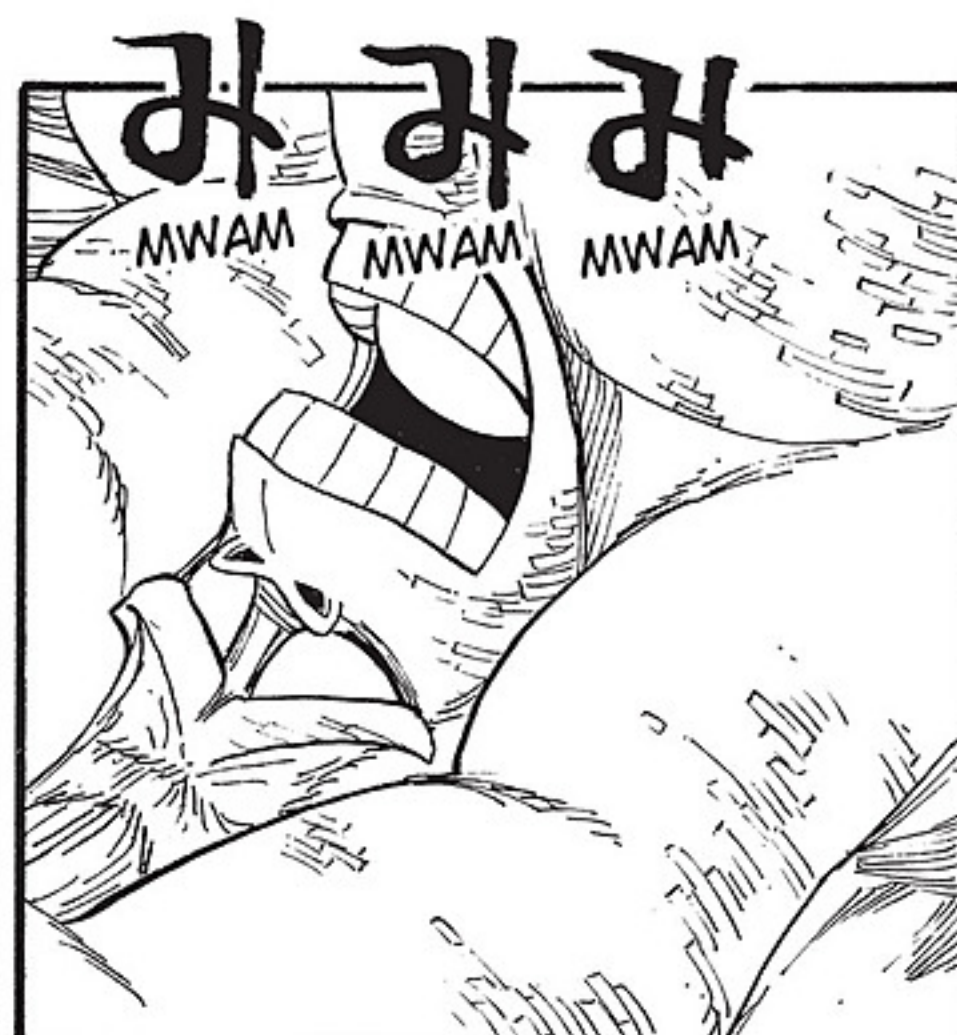
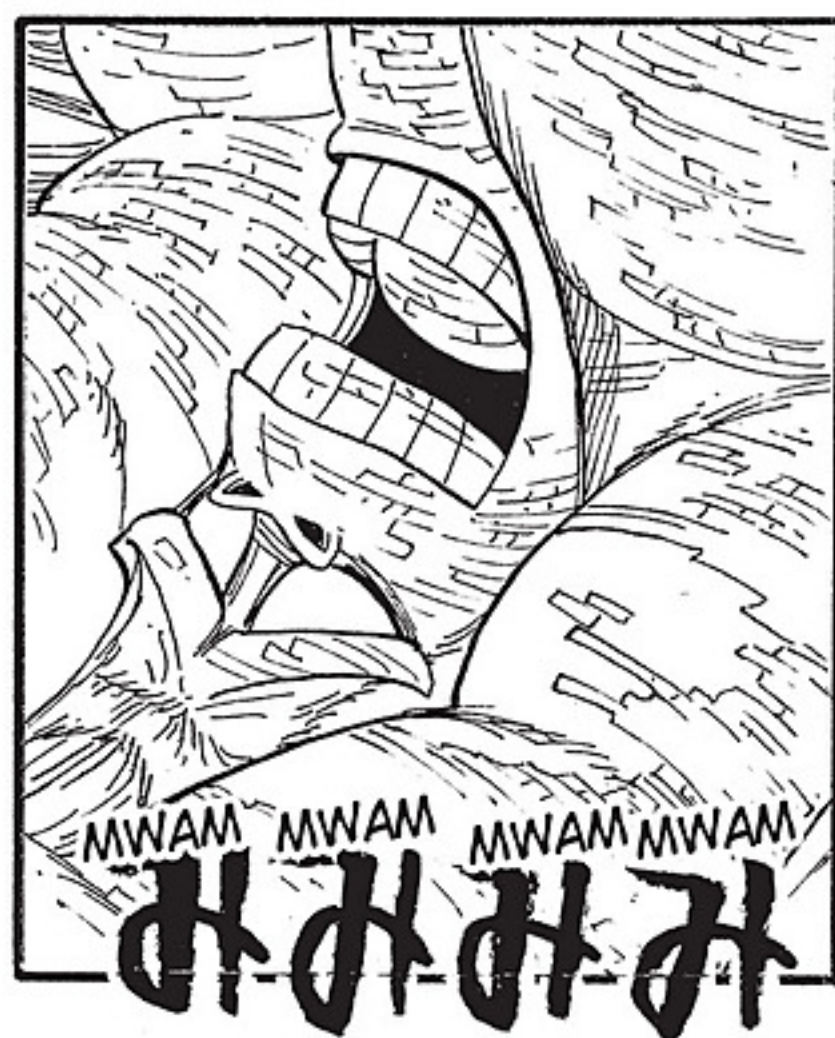
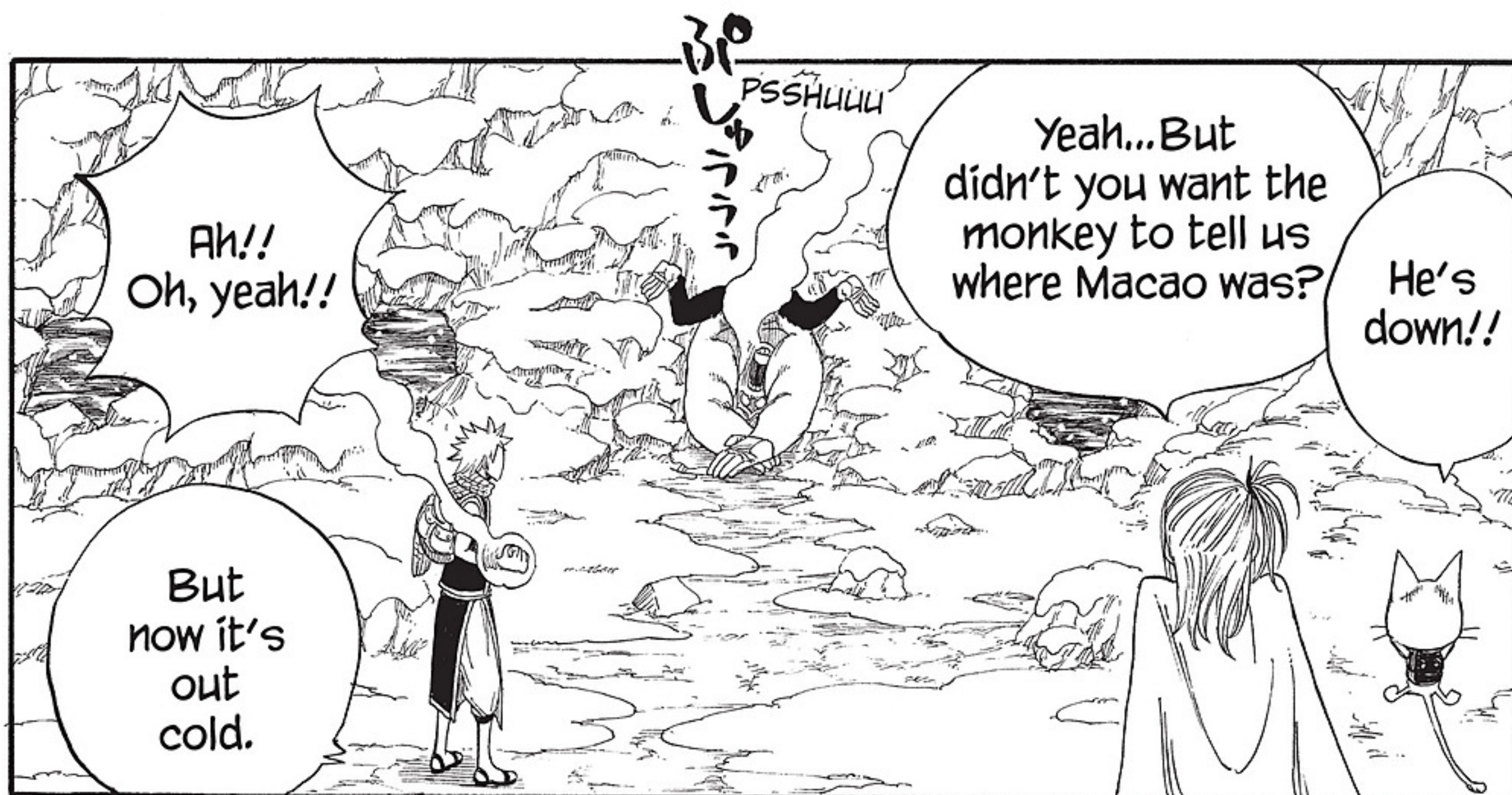


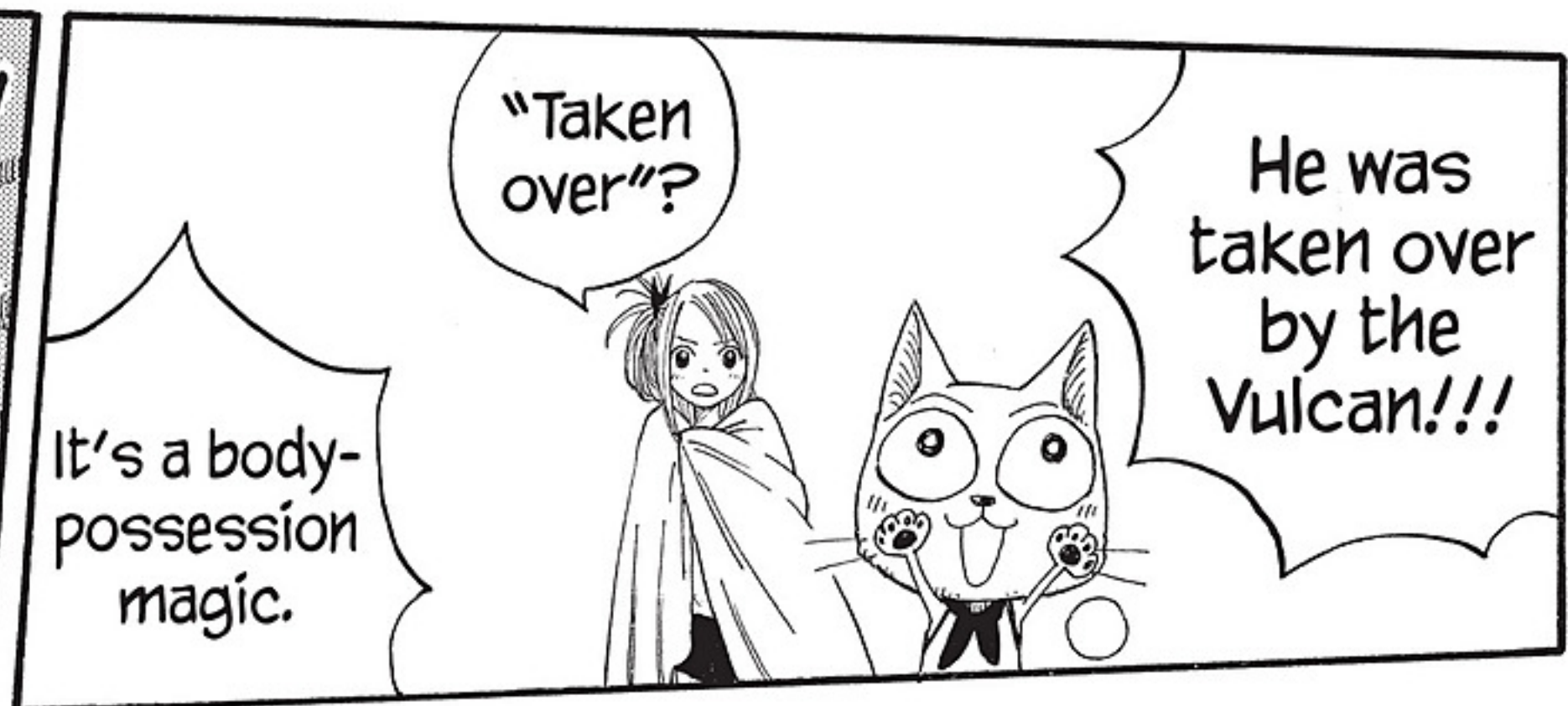
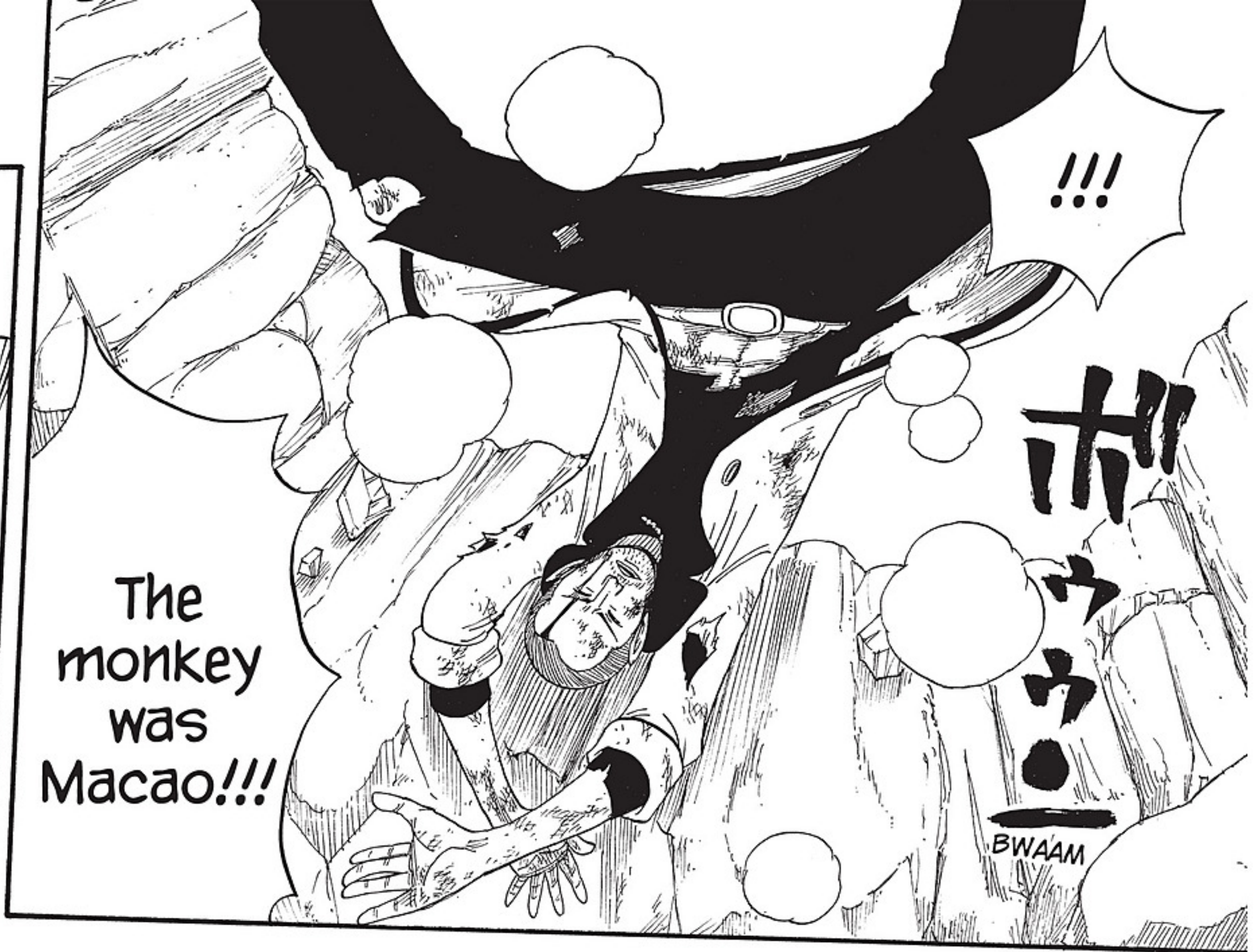
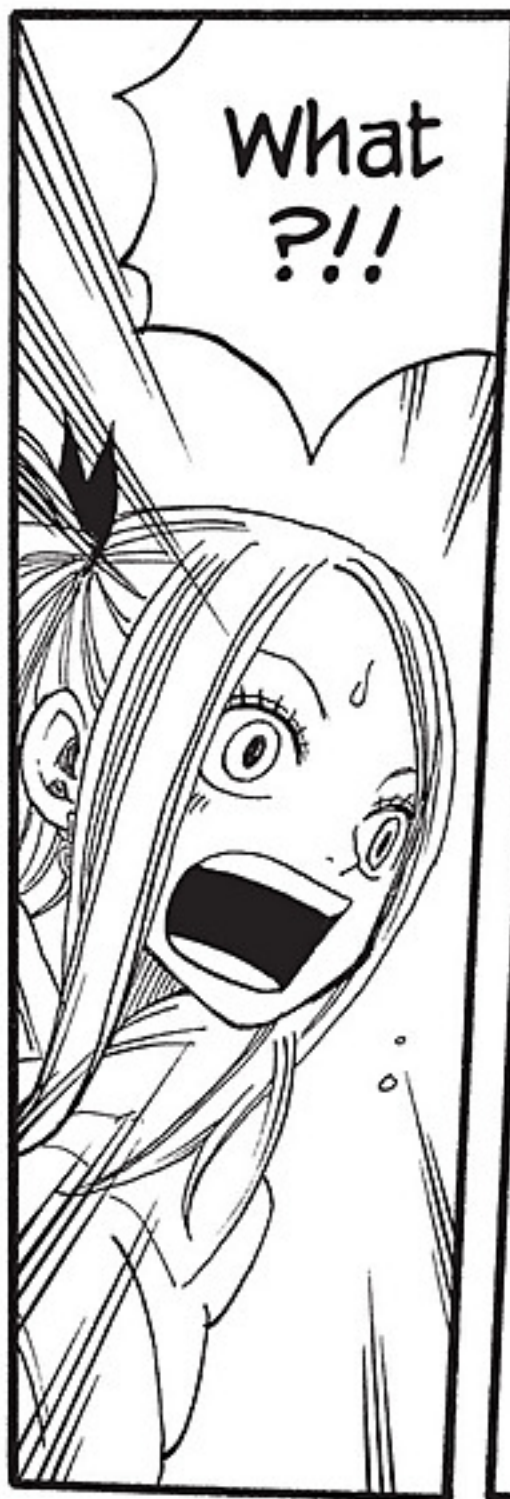


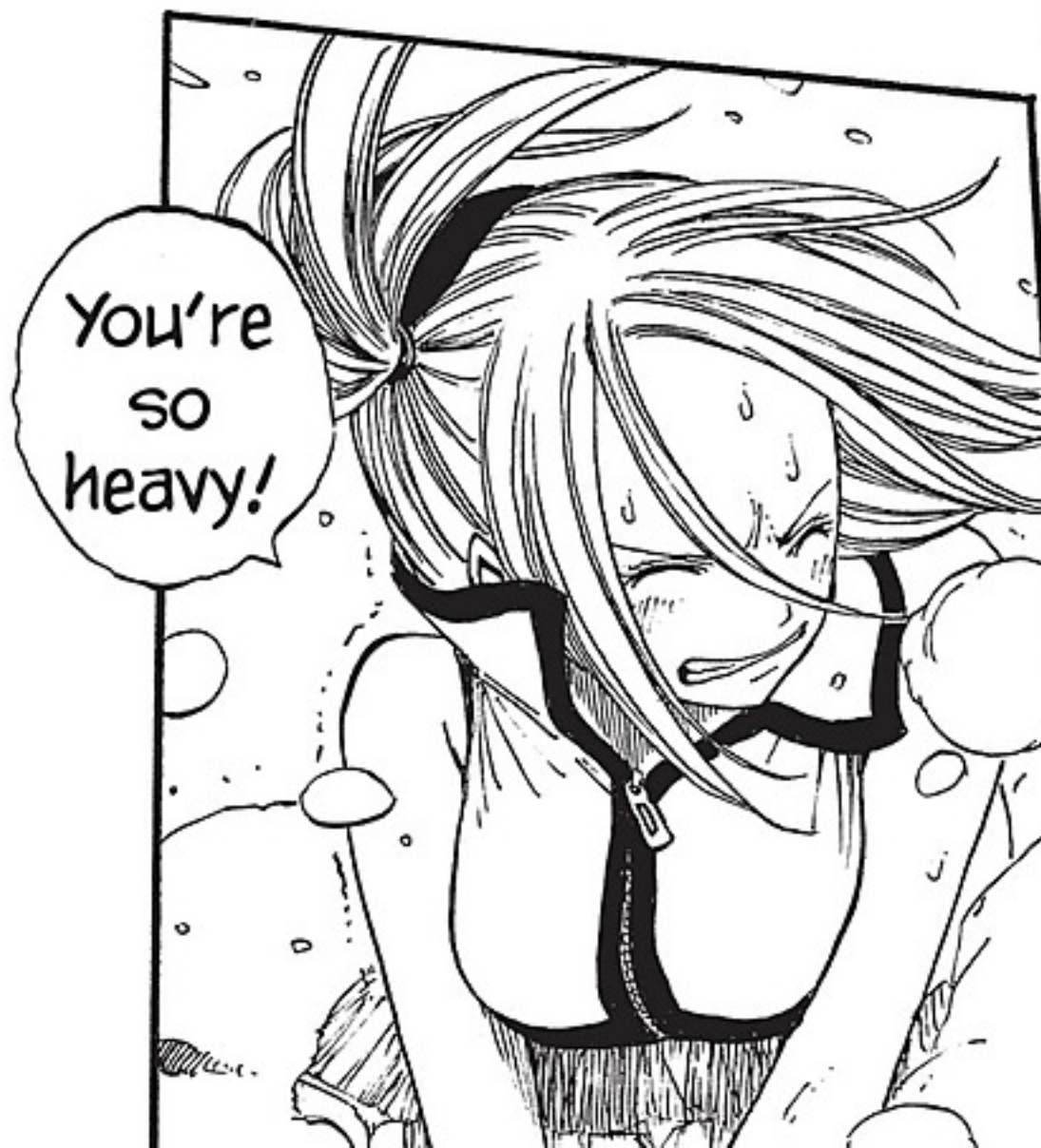
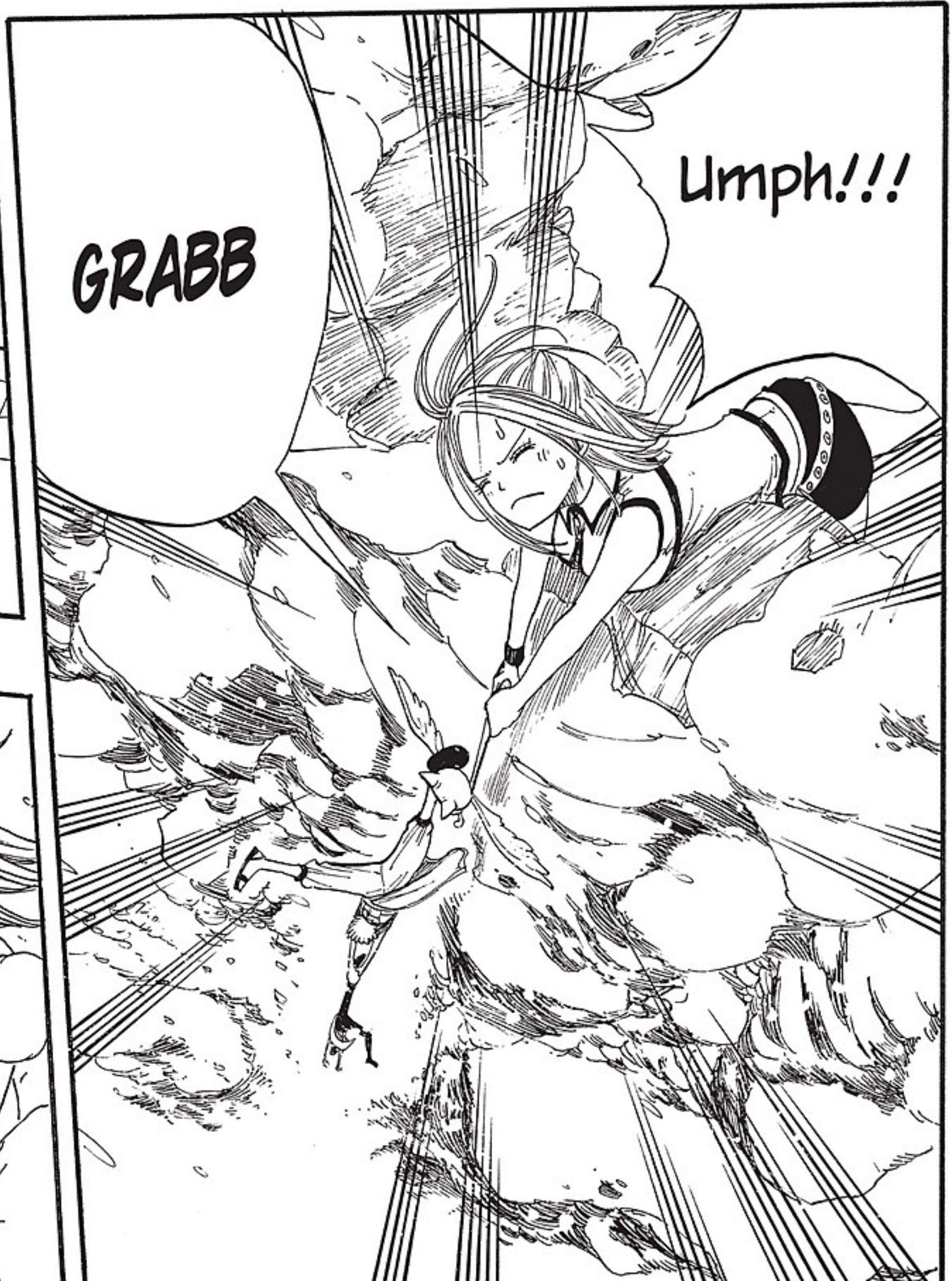
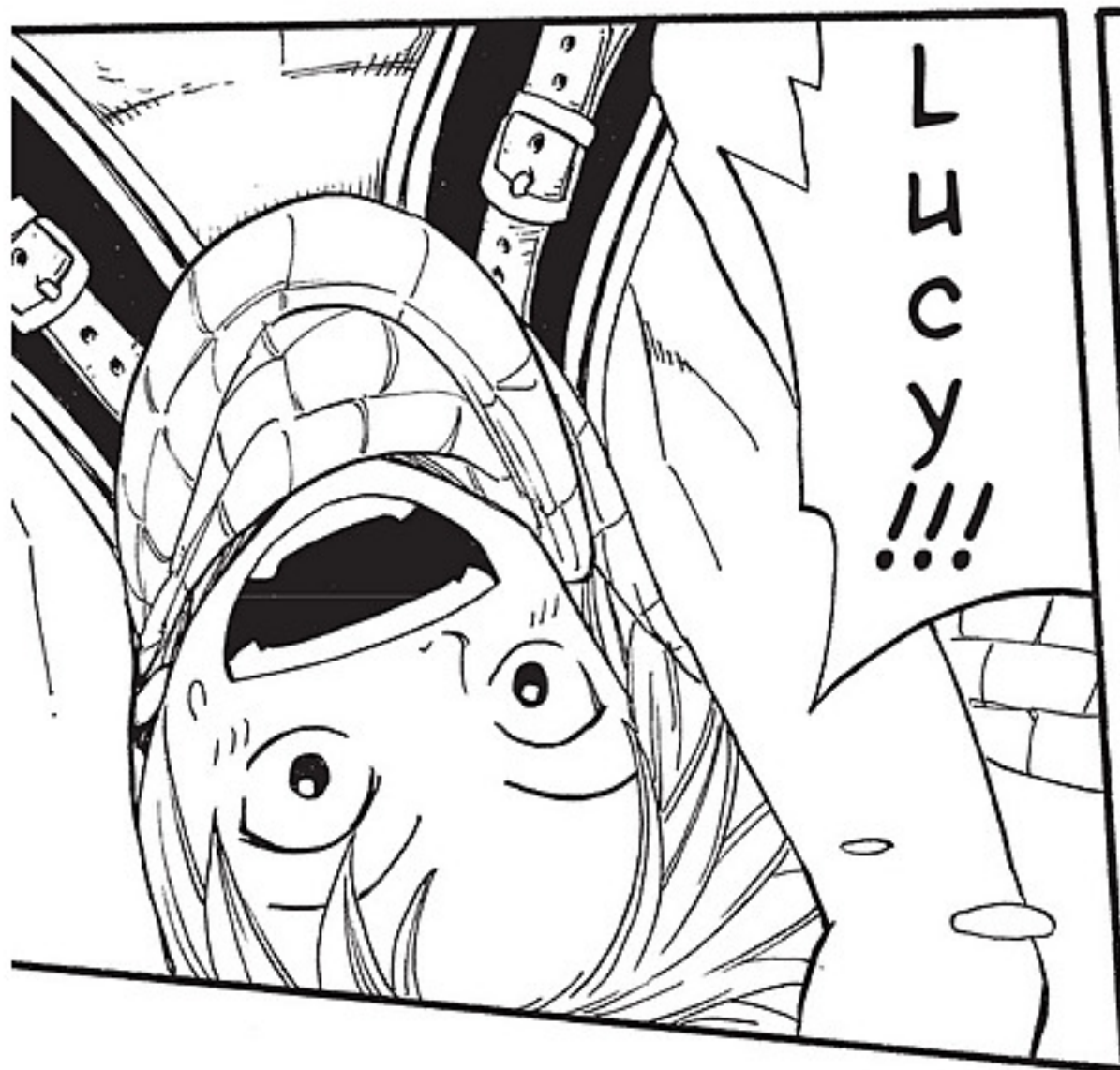
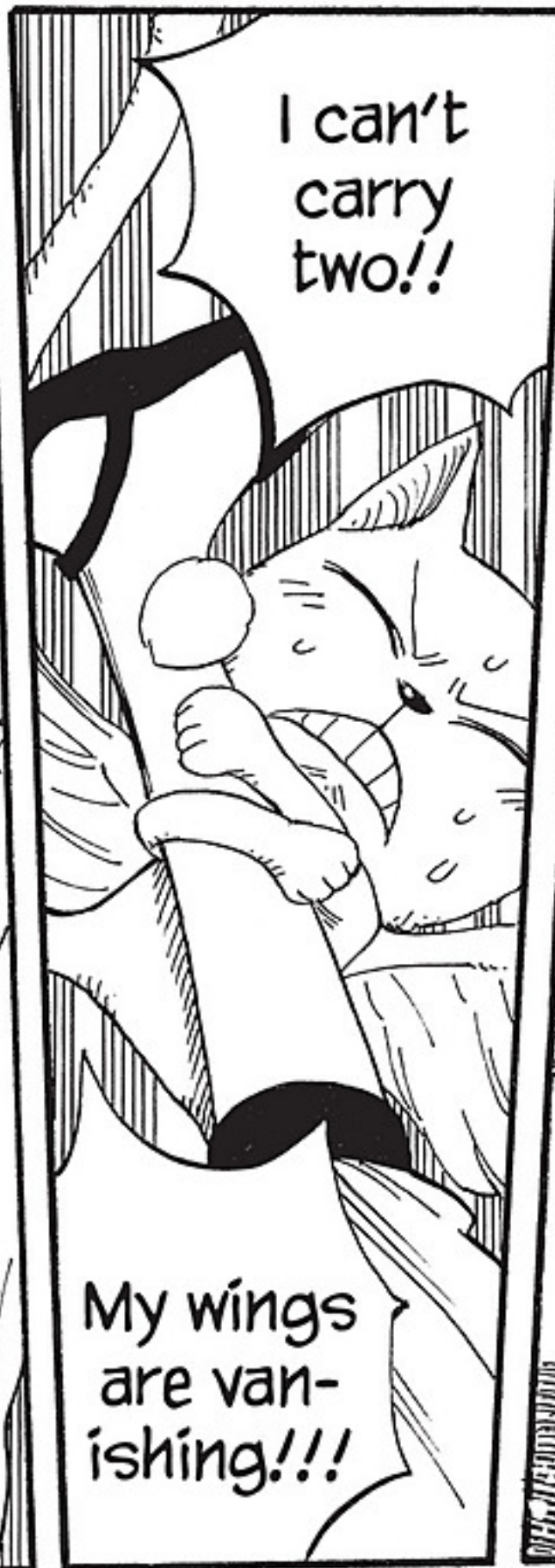


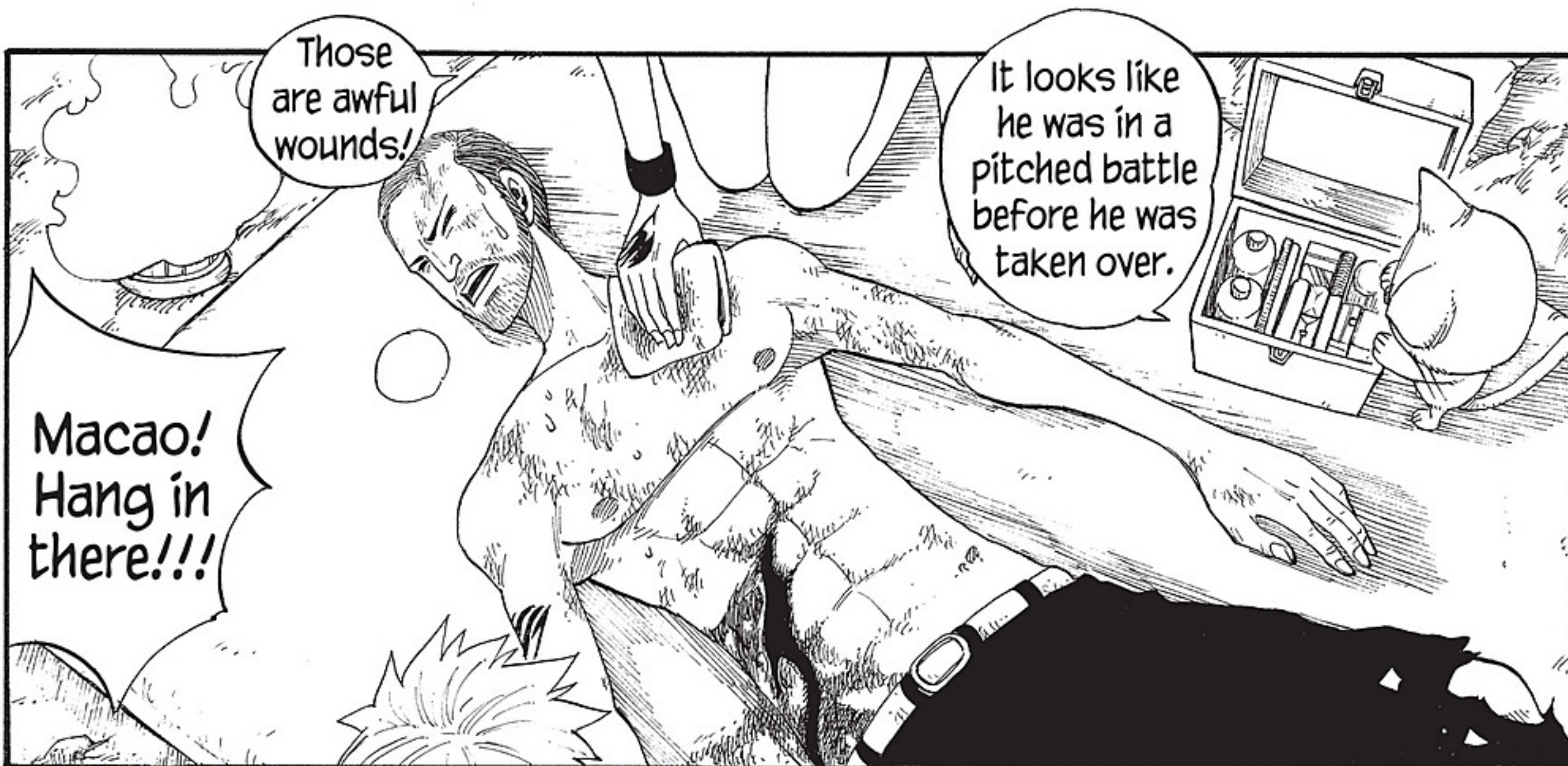
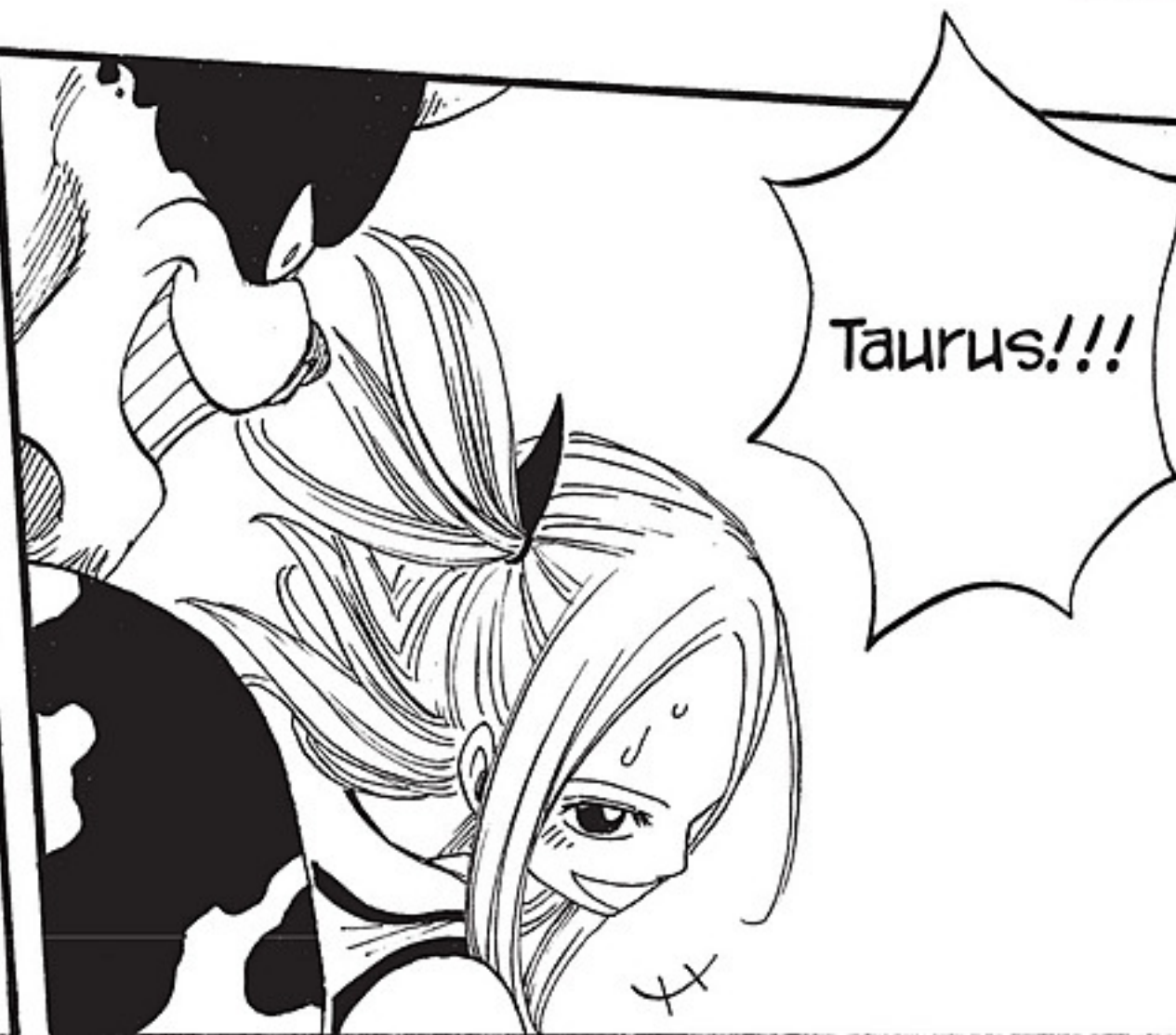
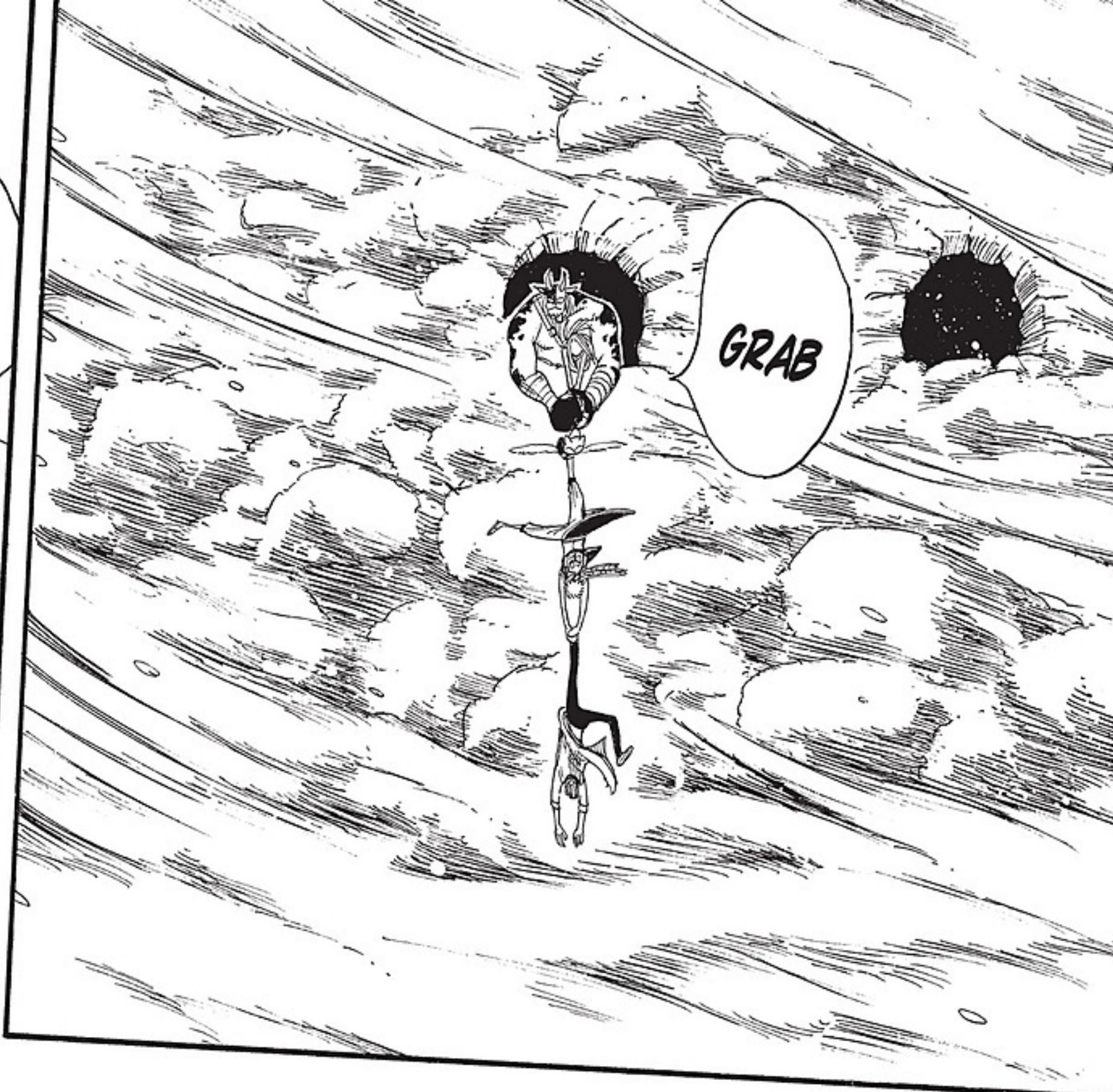
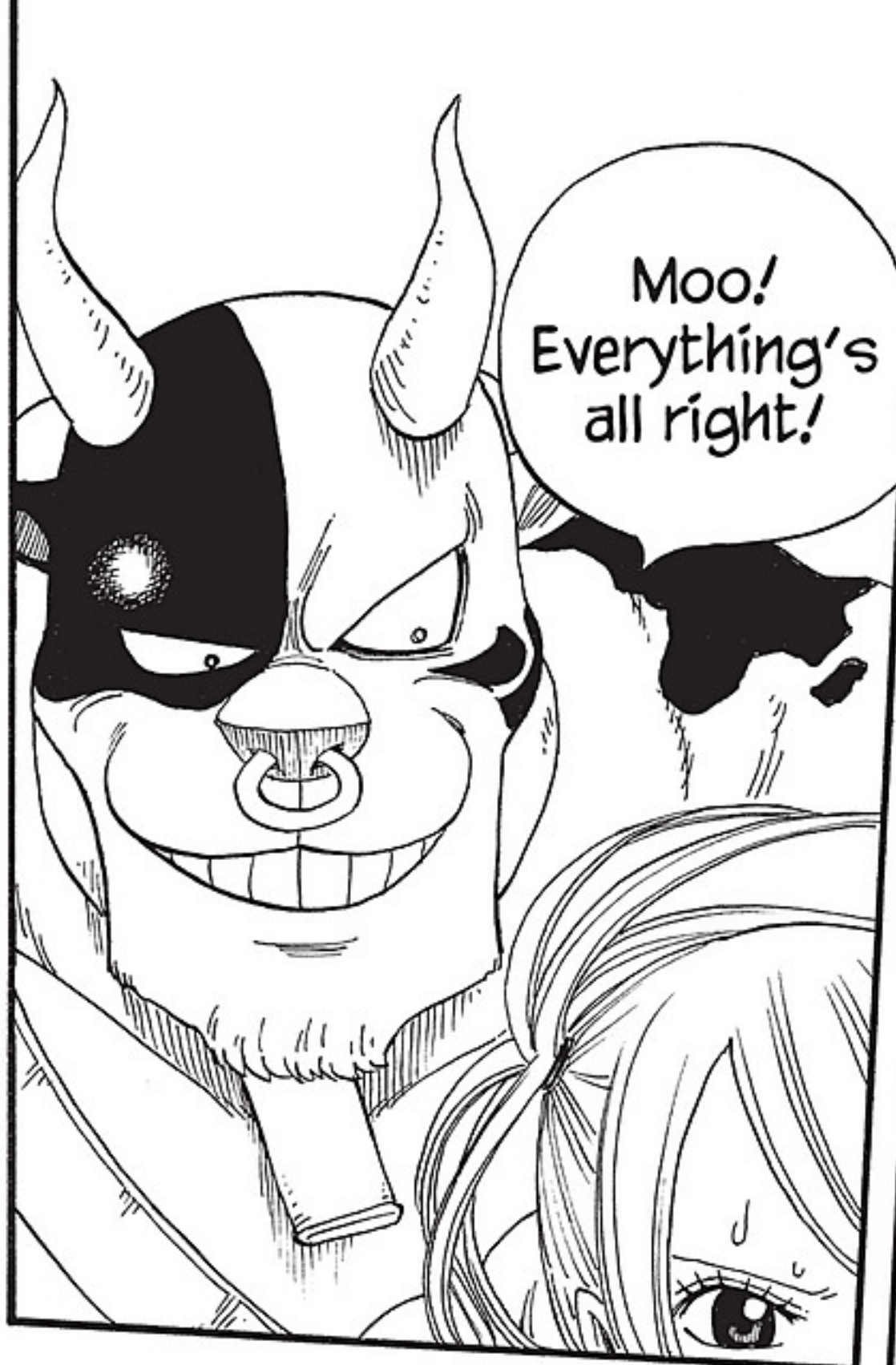
*Fire Dragon's Iron Punch





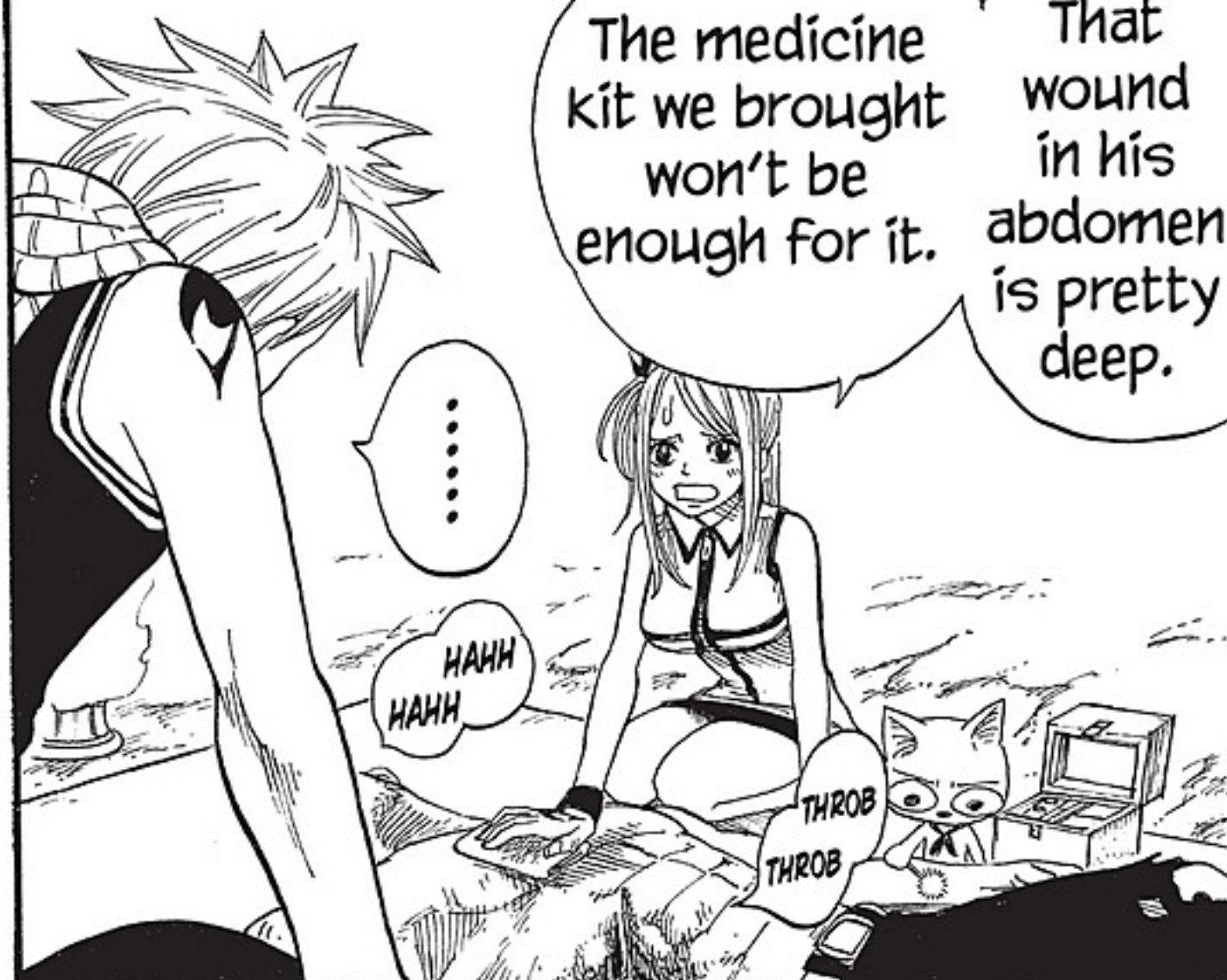








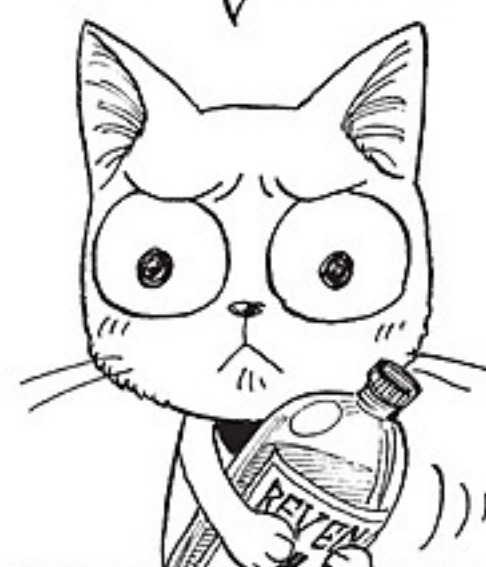
Actually...
I don't
think he
can be
saved...



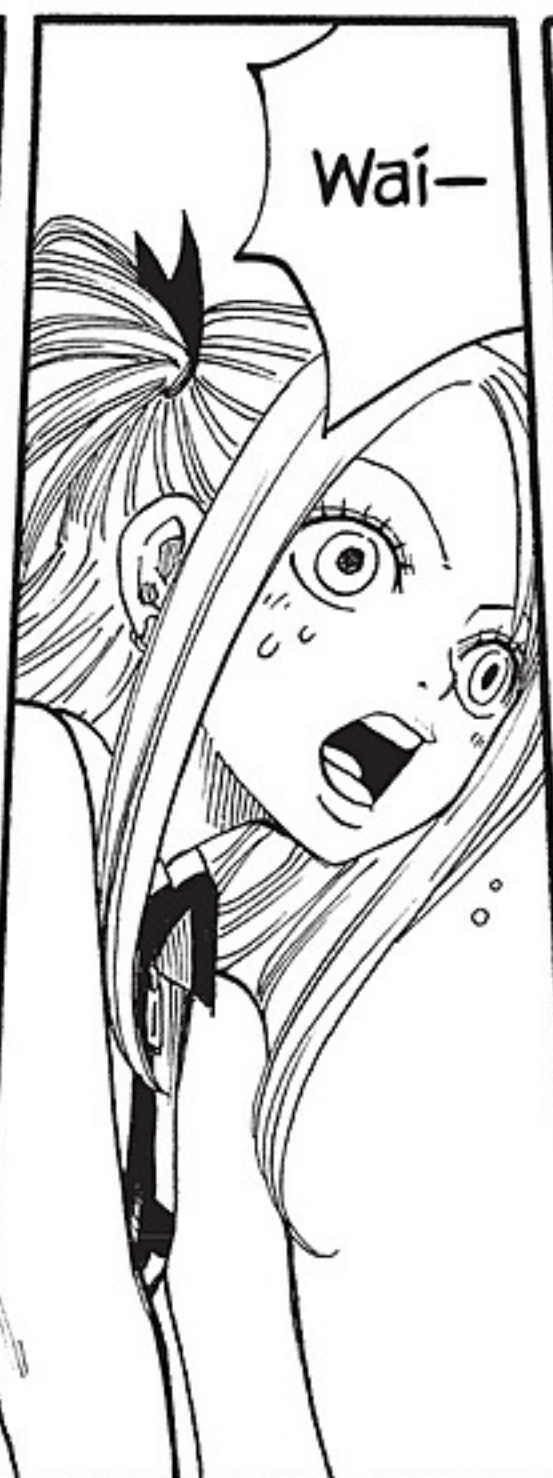
The medicine
kit we brought
won't be
enough for it.

That
wound
in his
abdomen
is pretty
deep.

So the Vulcan was
a monster that
survived by taking
over human after
human.



What do
you think
you're
doing?!!

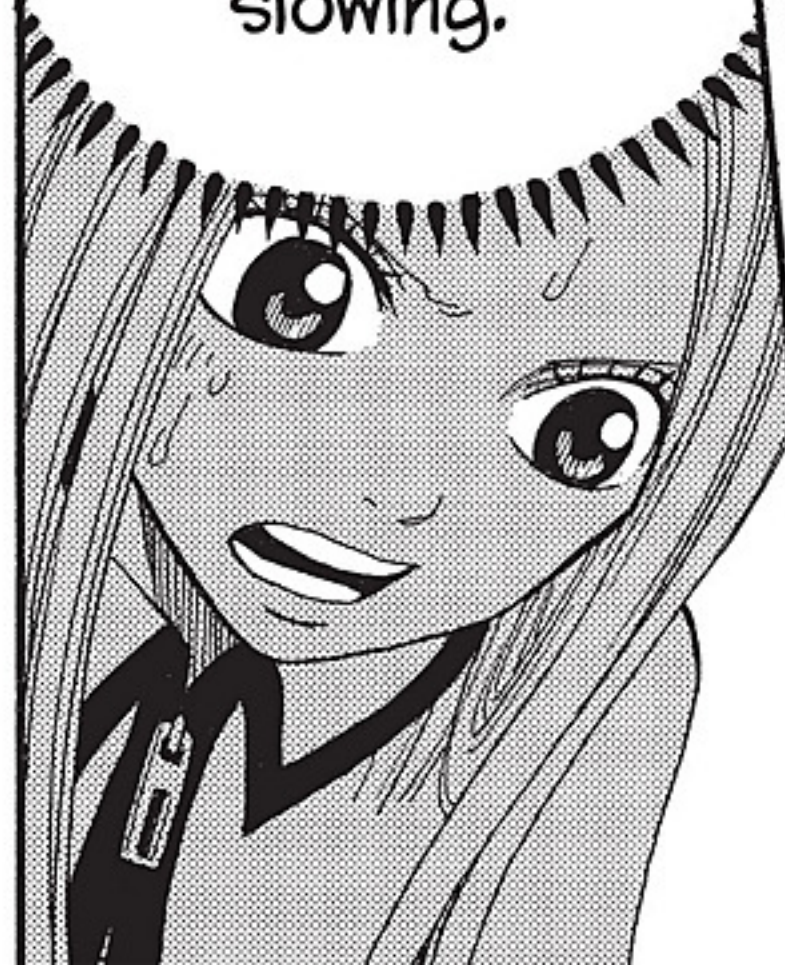


Wai—



GWOUGH

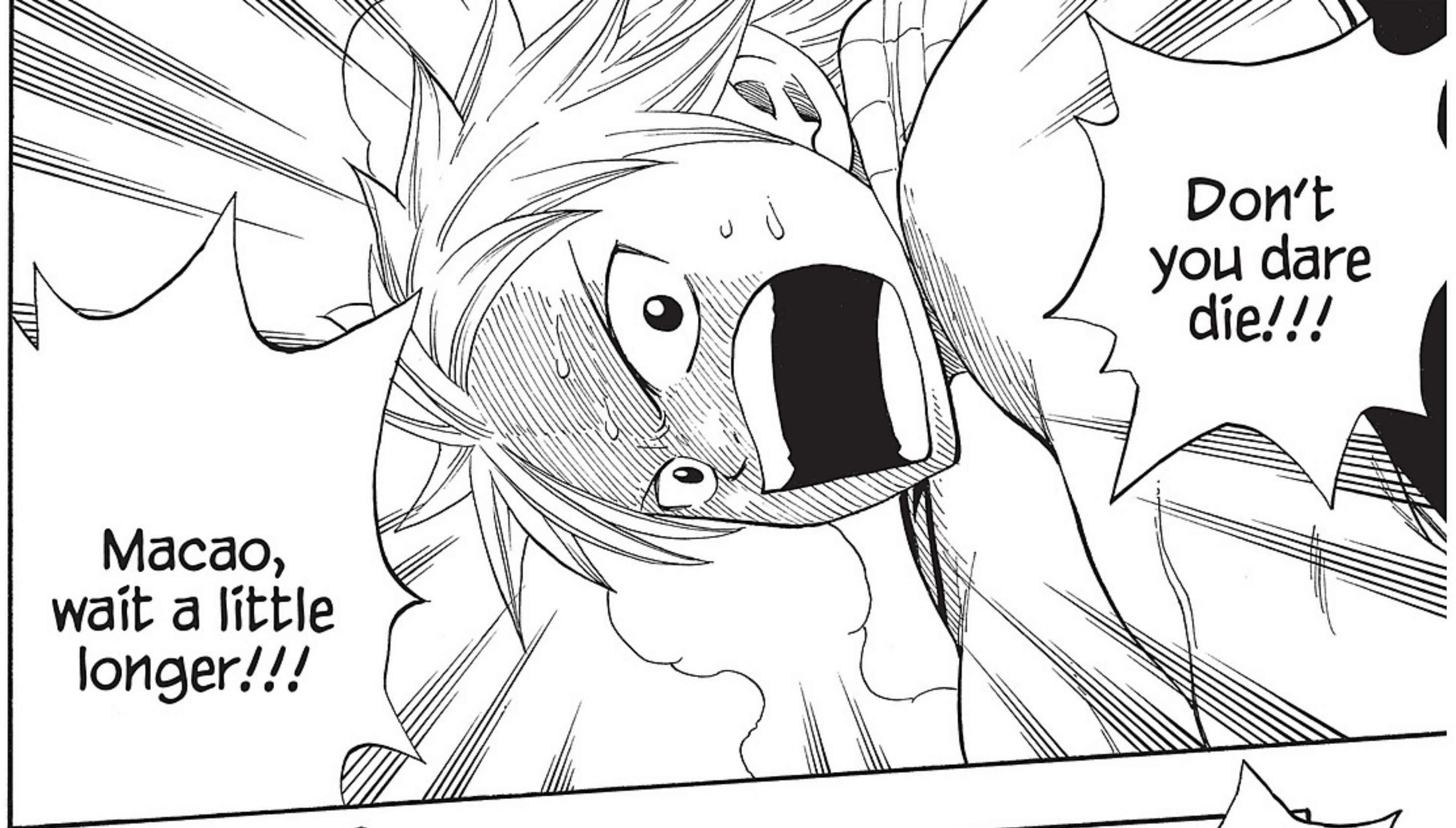
I see. The burn
is closing the
wound! The blood
flow is already
slowing.



Lucy!!!
Hold
Macao
down!!!

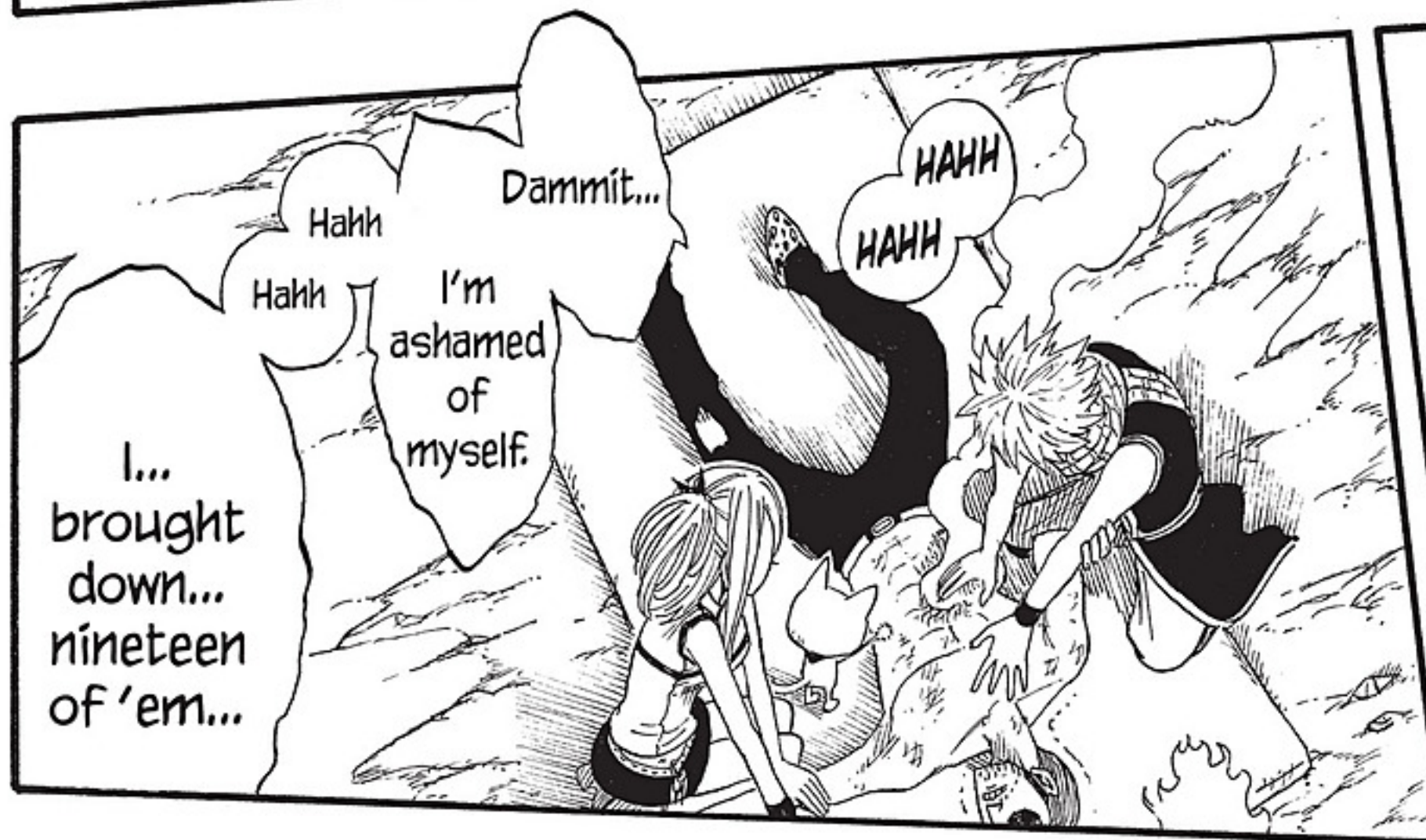


Right now,
it's the only
thing I can
do!!! Try
to hold on,
Macao!!!



Don't
you dare
die!!!

Macao,
wait a little
longer!!!



Dammit...

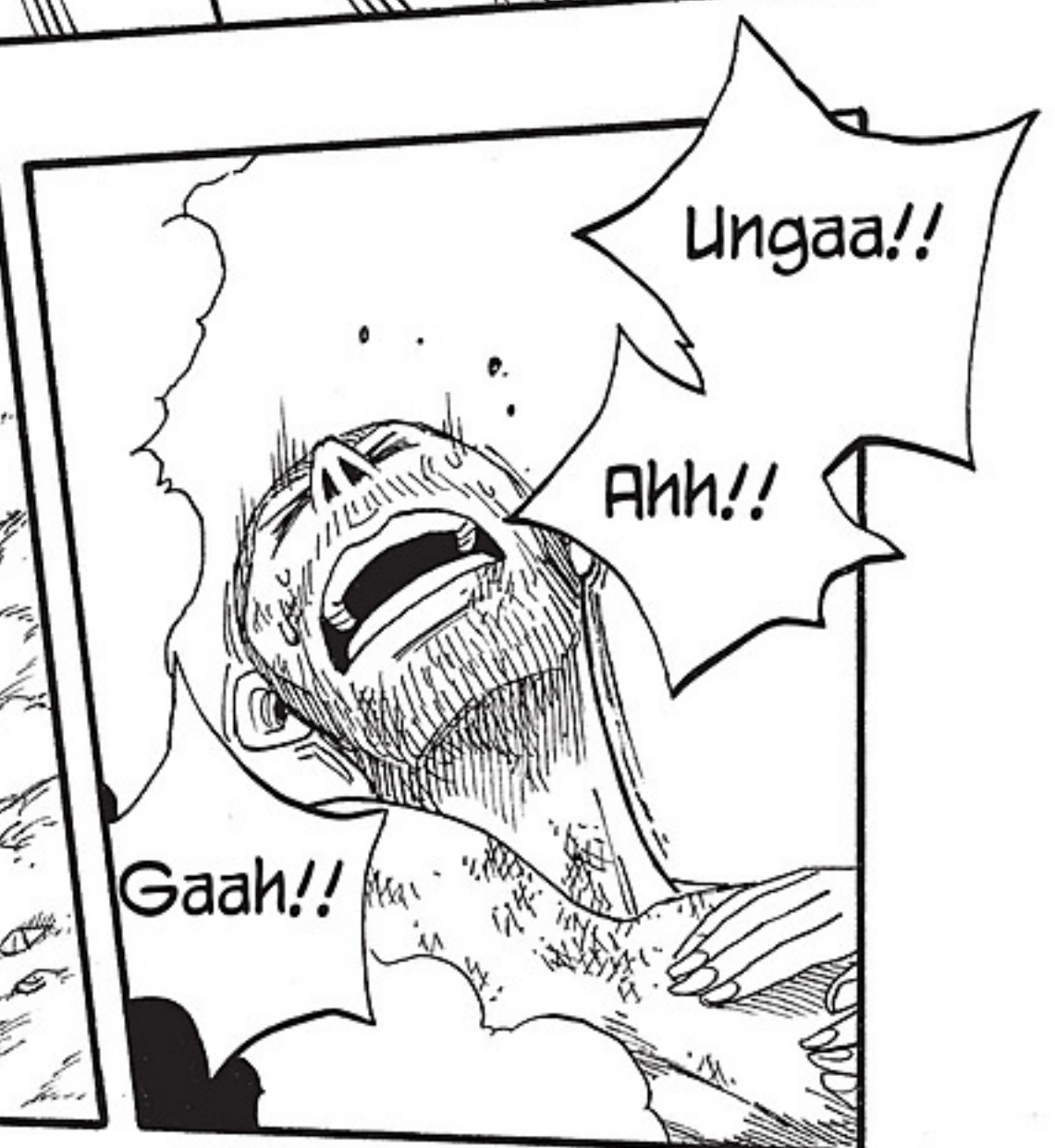
Hahh

Hahh

I'm
ashamed
of
myself.

I...
brought
down...
nineteen
of 'em...

HAHH
HAHH



Ungaa!!

Ahh!!

Gaah!!



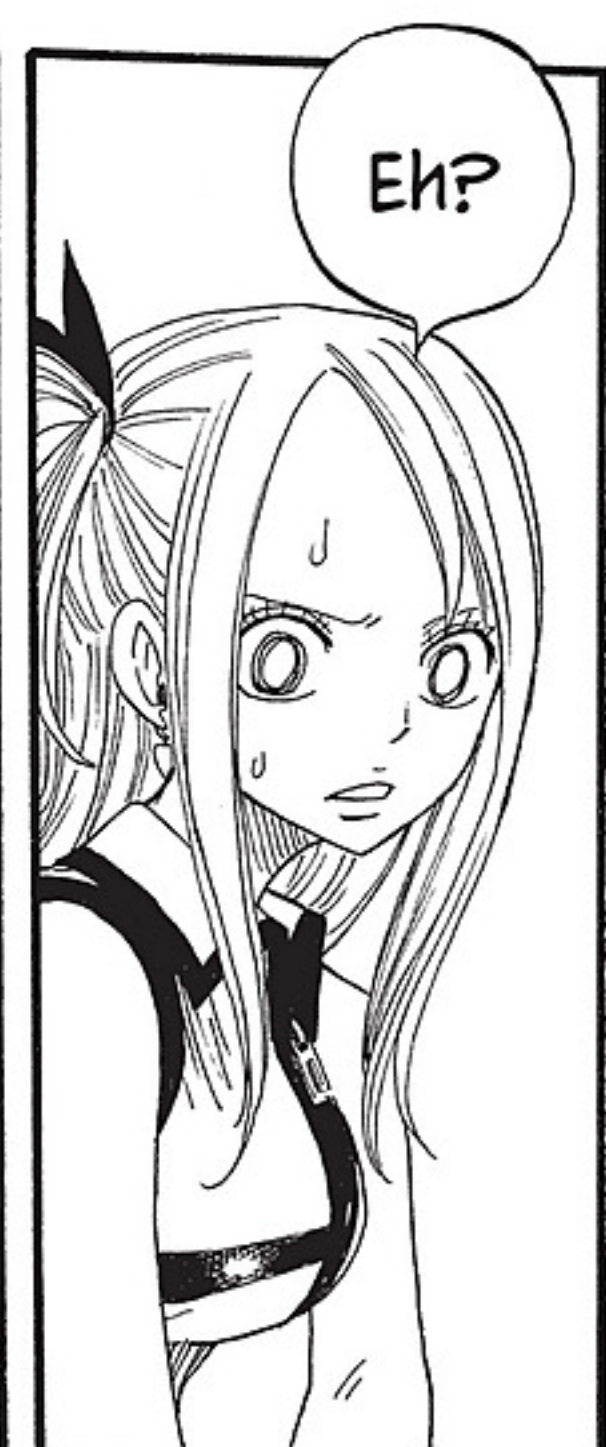
I get it!
Now stop
talking!!!

You're
going to
reopen
your
wound!!!

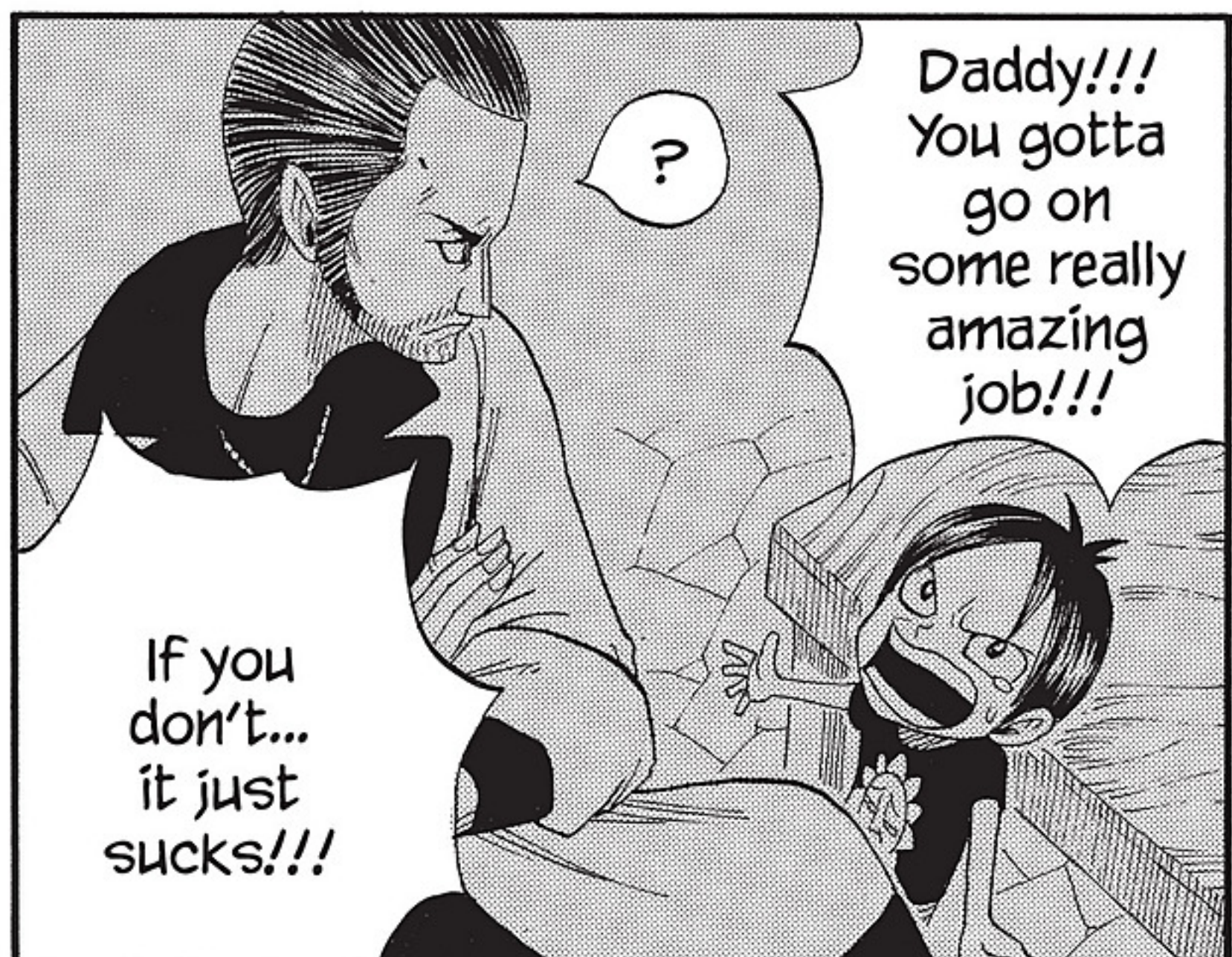
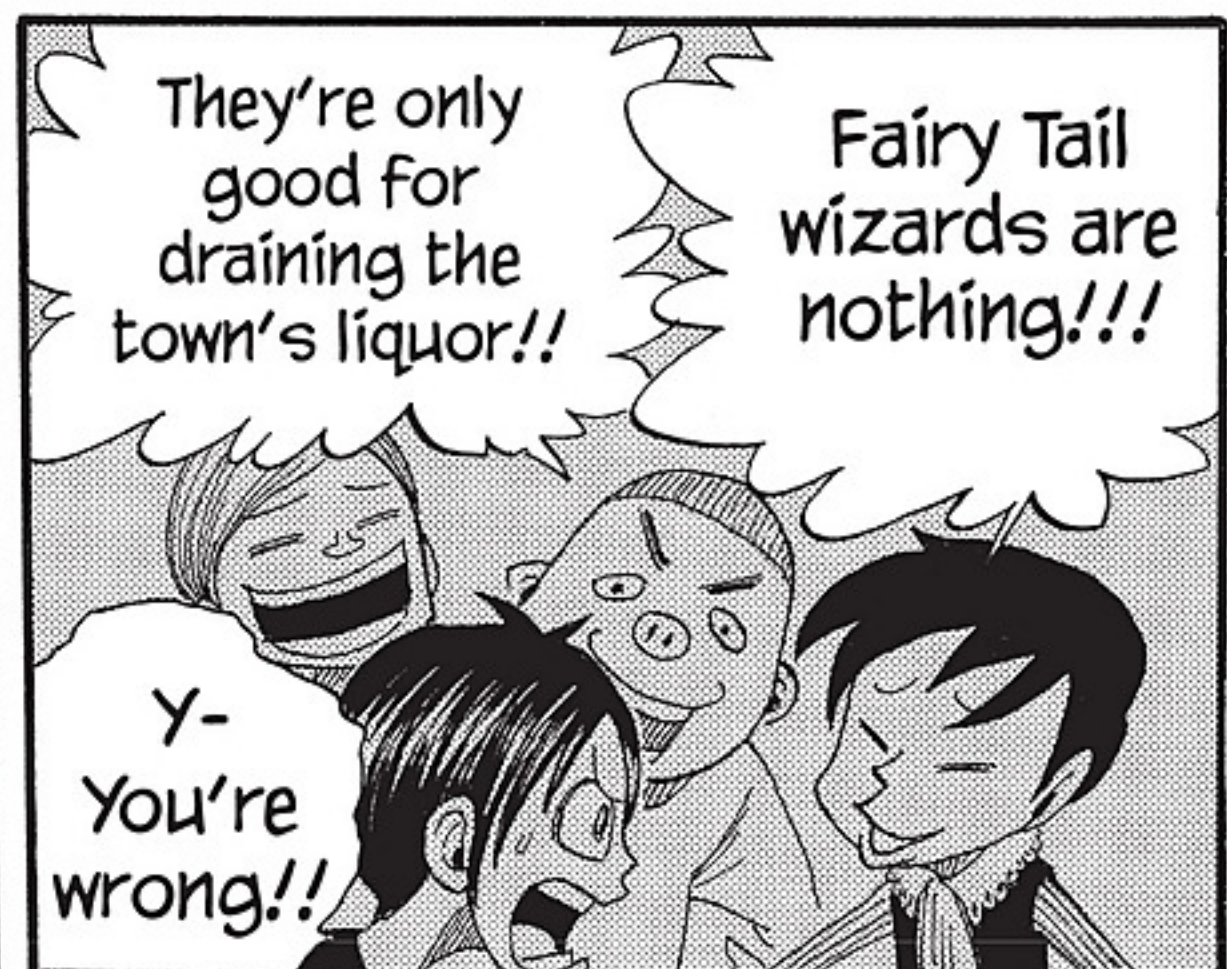
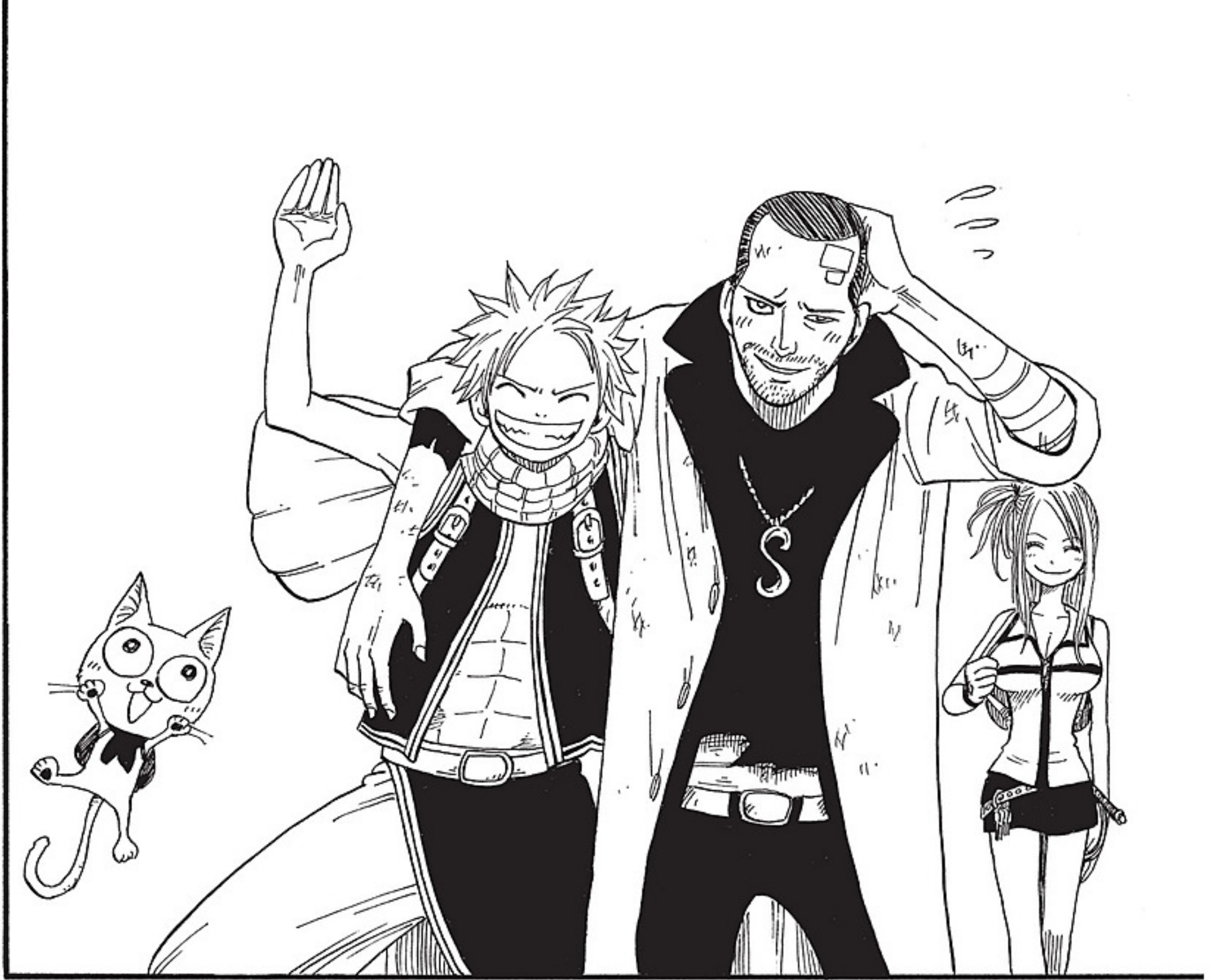
Ungg...

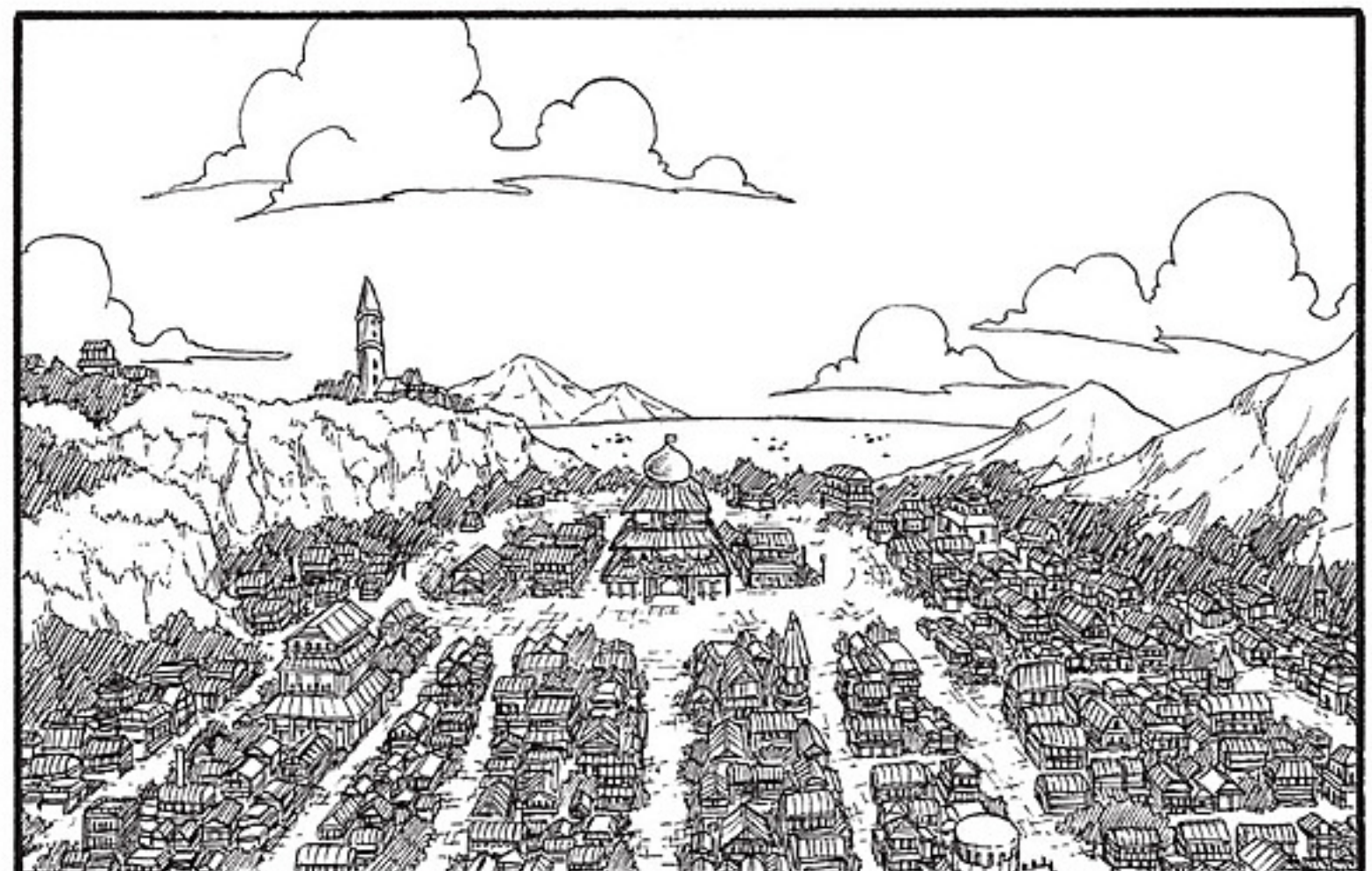
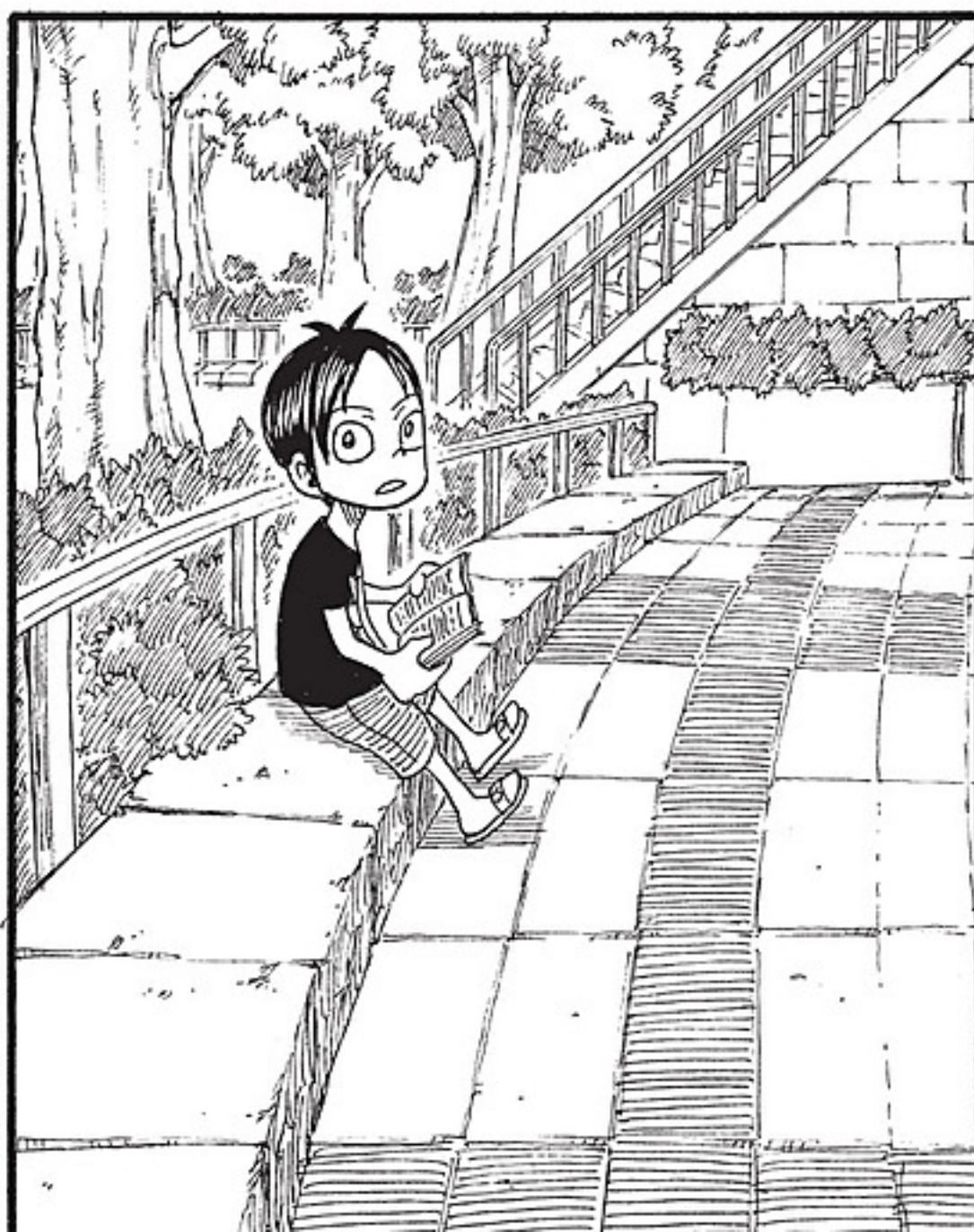
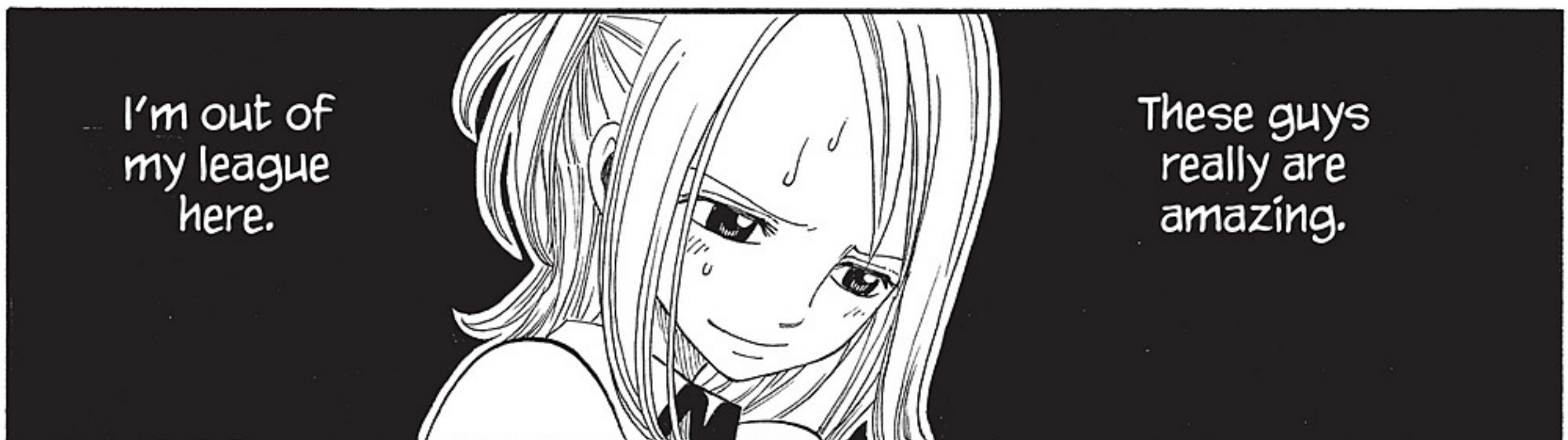
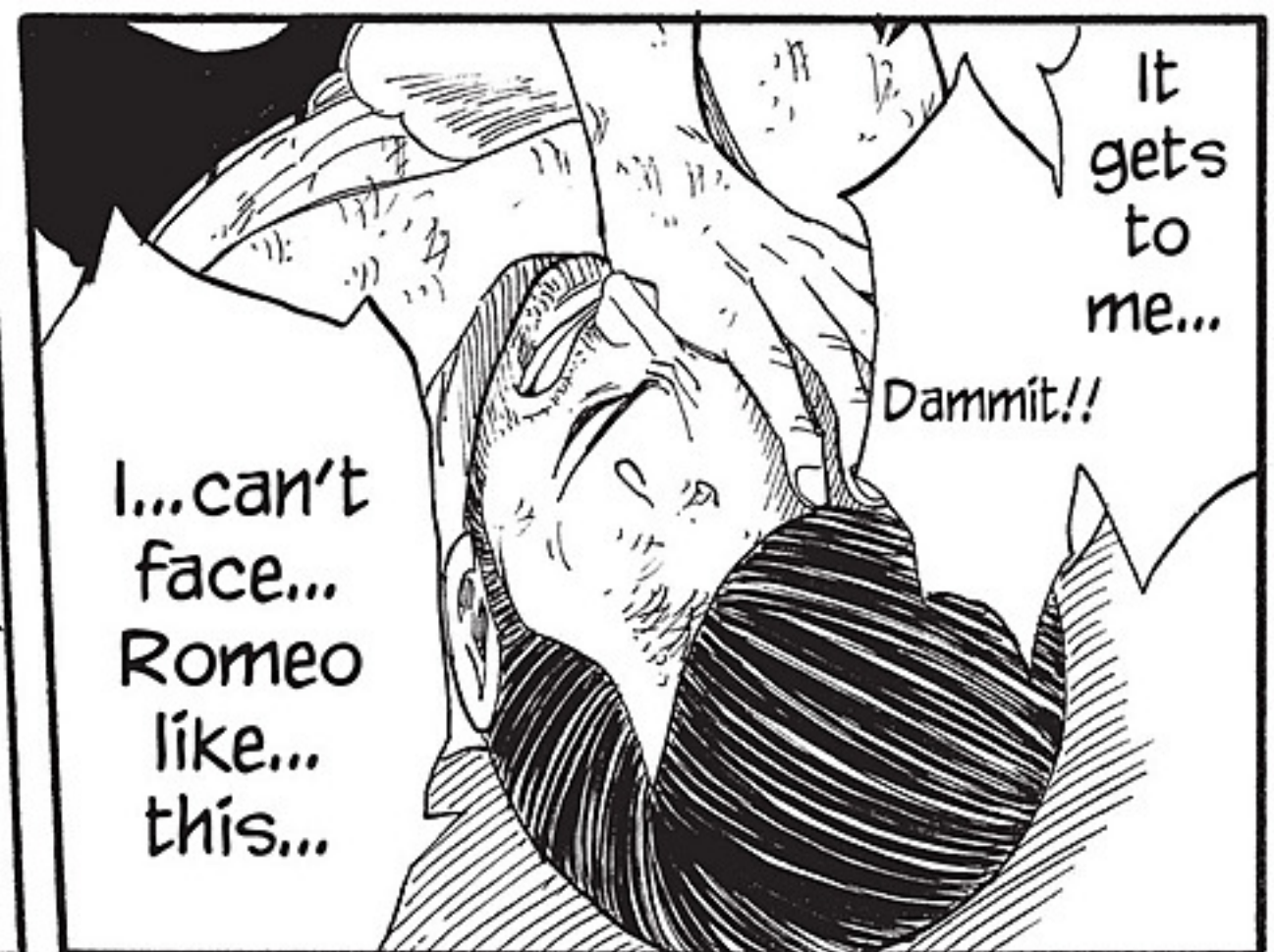
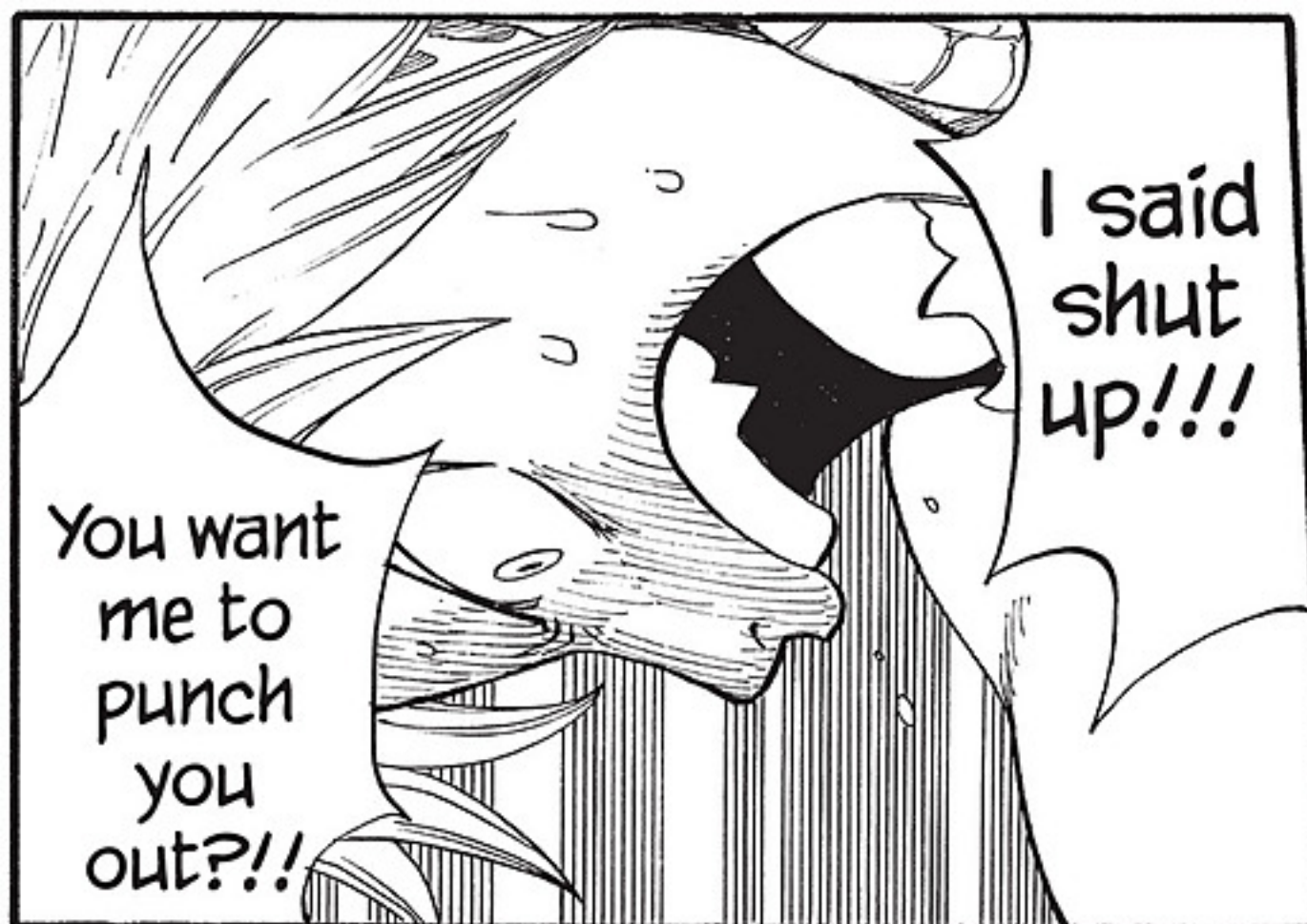
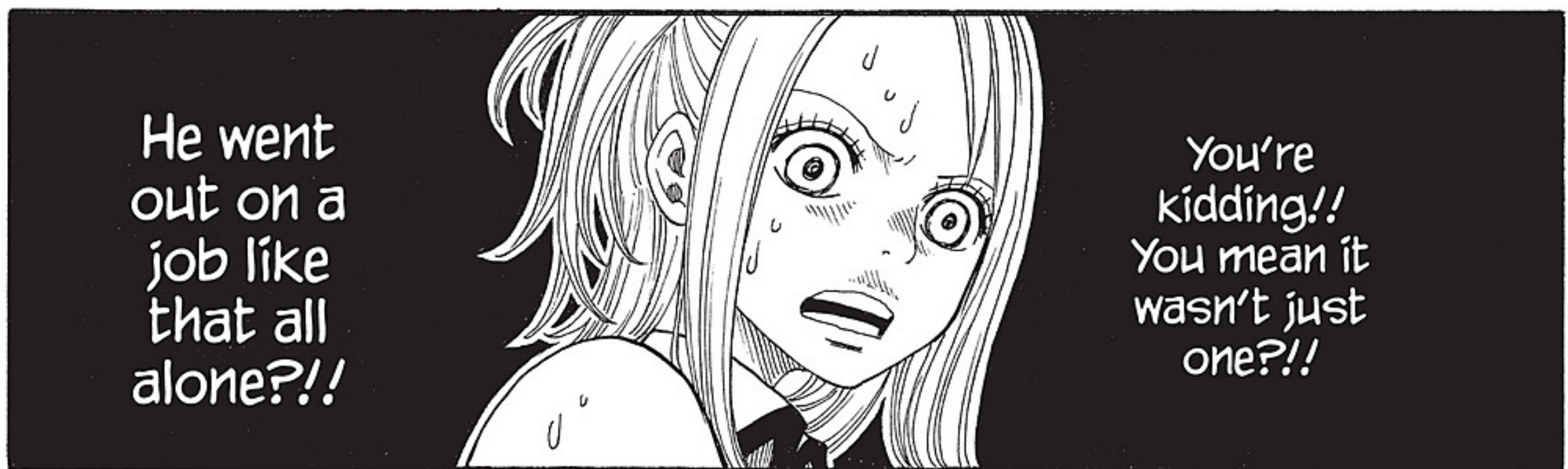
But the
twentieth...
took me...
over...

Gaah!!



Eh?







It's okay.
I'm a
wizard's
son.

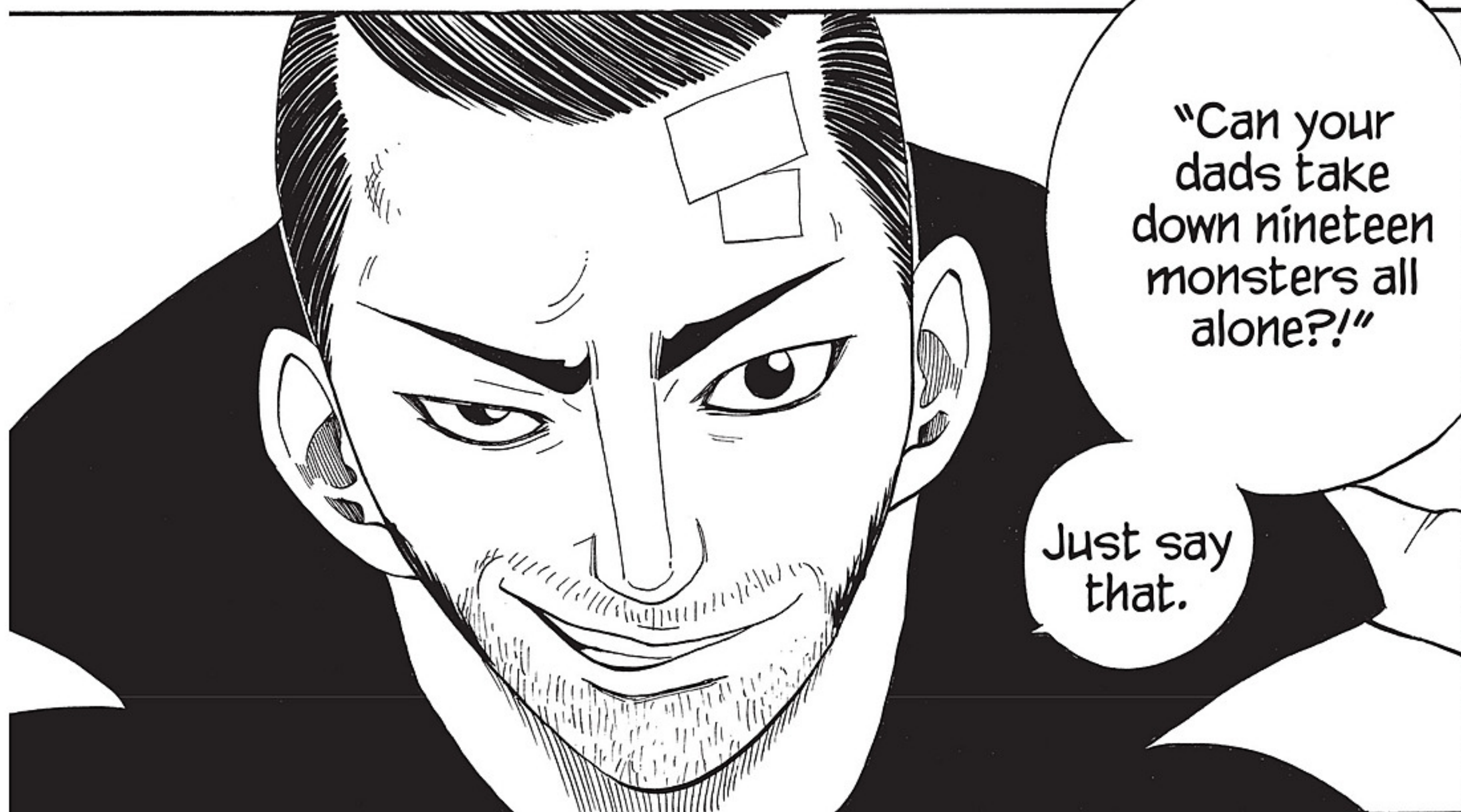
Next time
those brats
make fun
of you, you
can just ask
them...



Romeo.

ぎゅっ! っ!
GWMM

I'm
sorry I
worried
you.



"Can your
dads take
down nineteen
monsters all
alone?!"

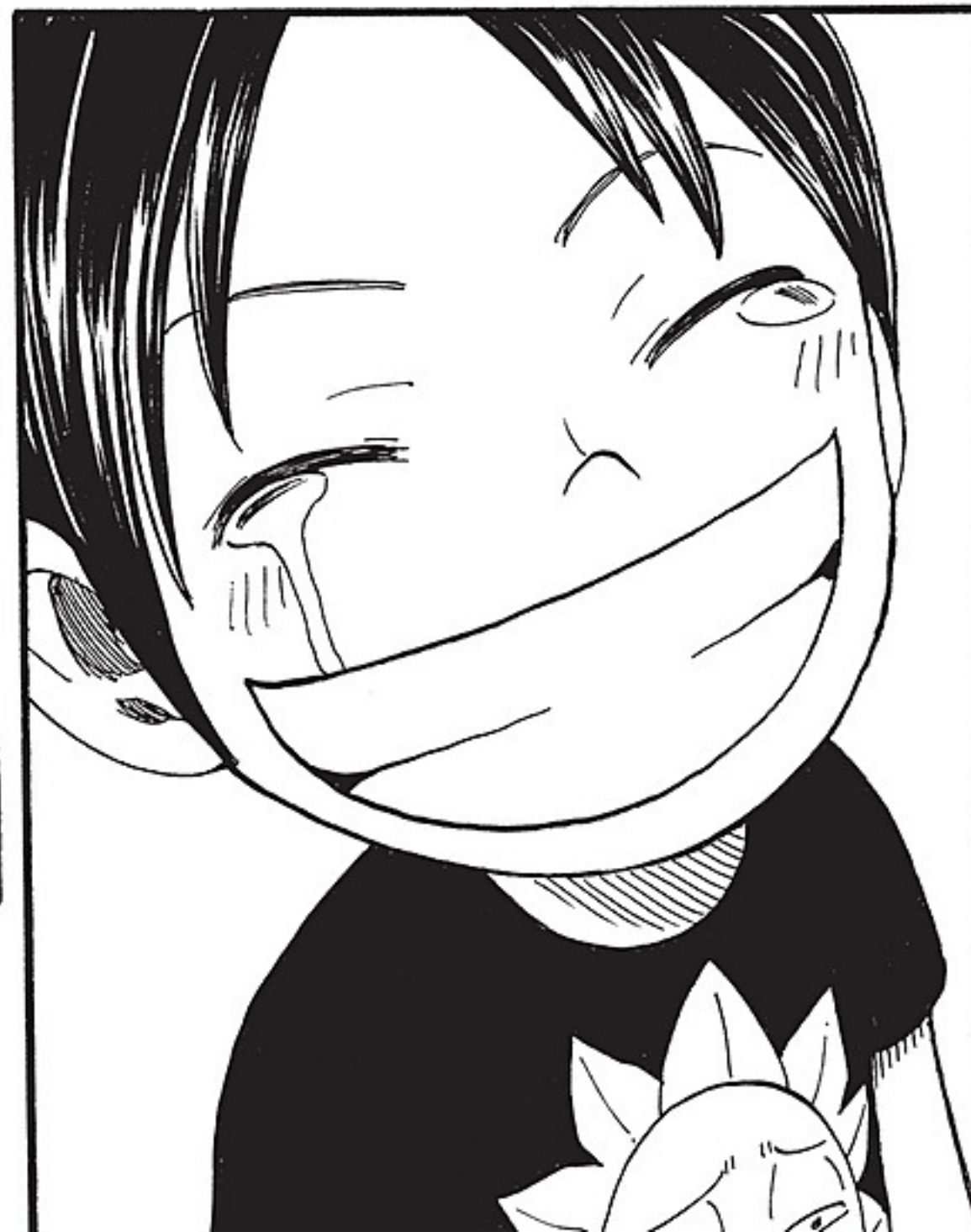
Just say
that.

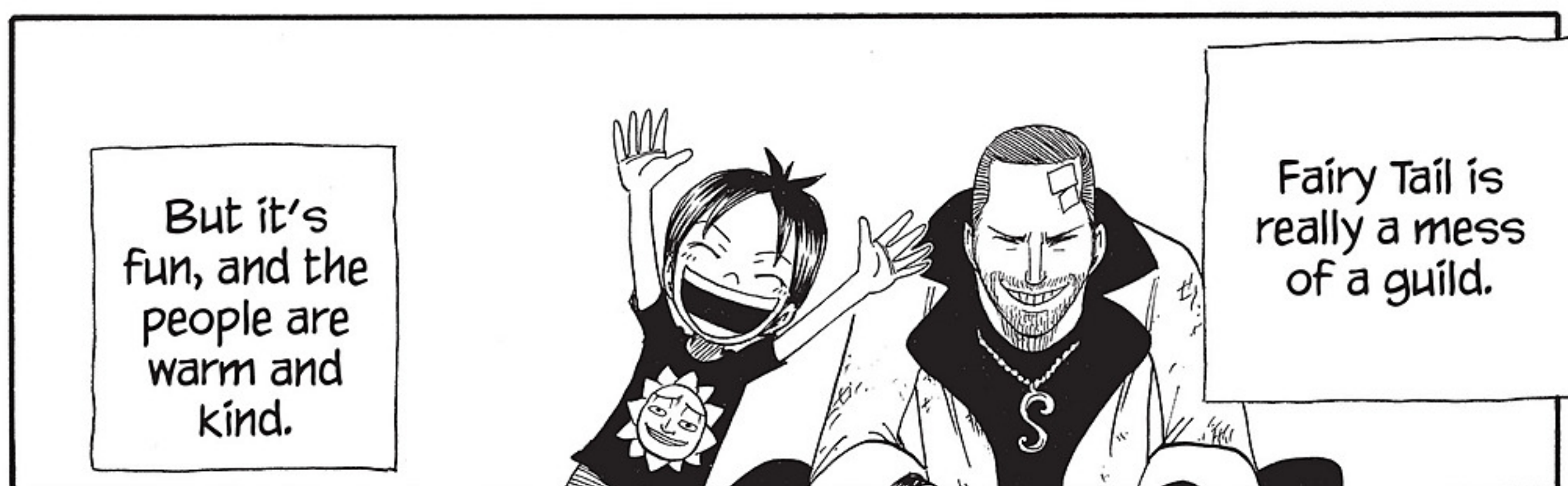
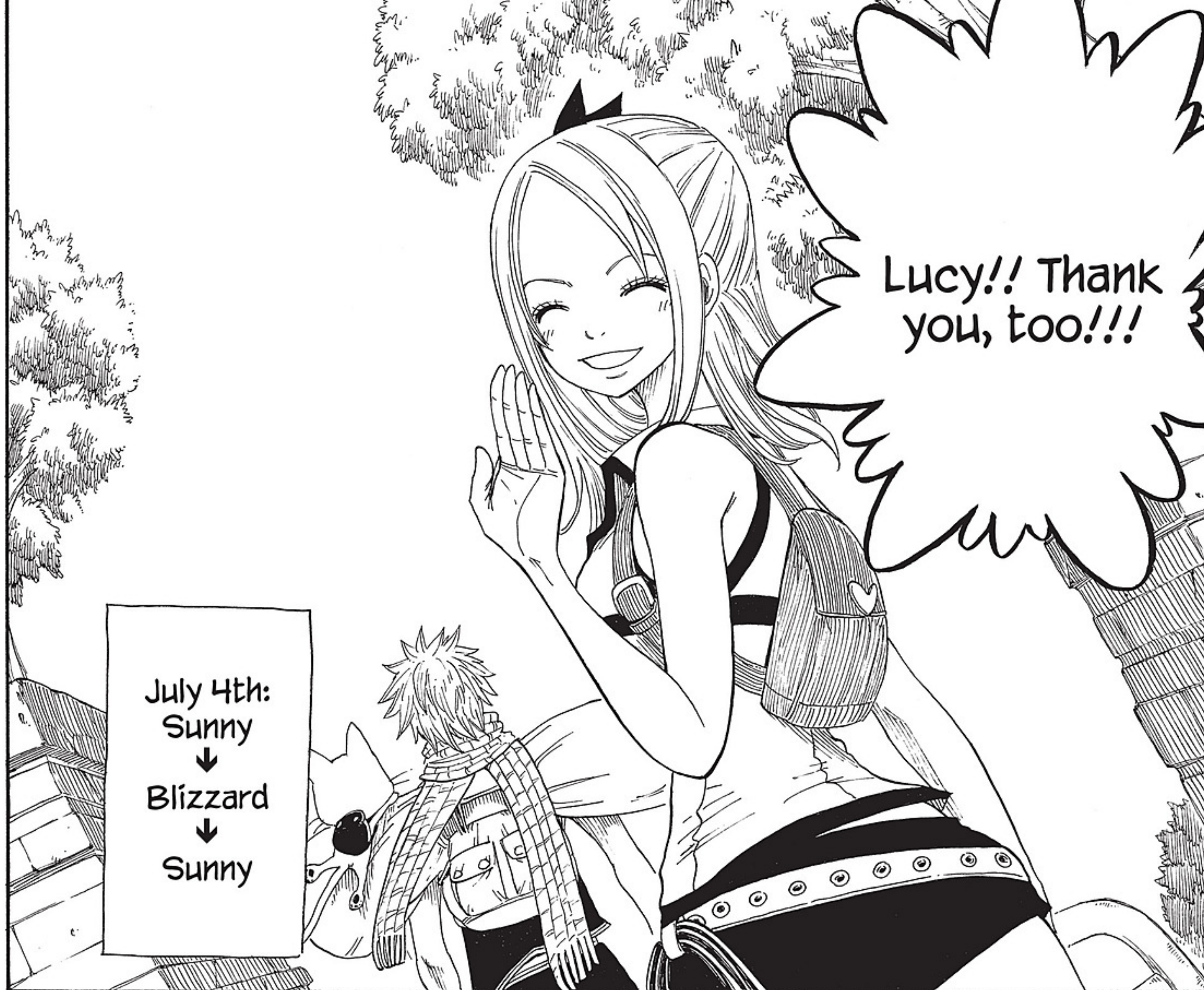


Aye. Yeah.

Hey,
Natsu!!
Happy!!
Thank you!!

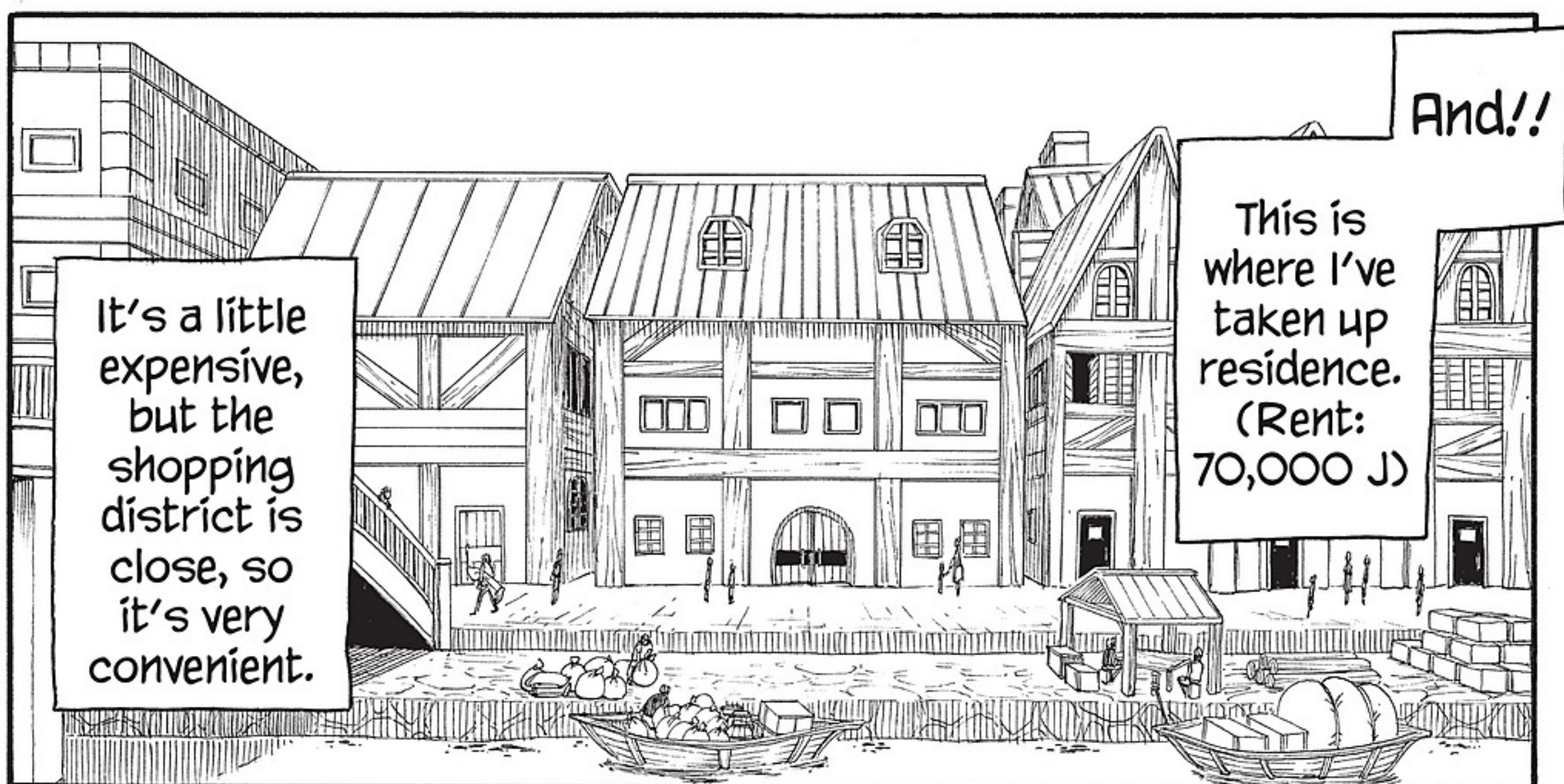
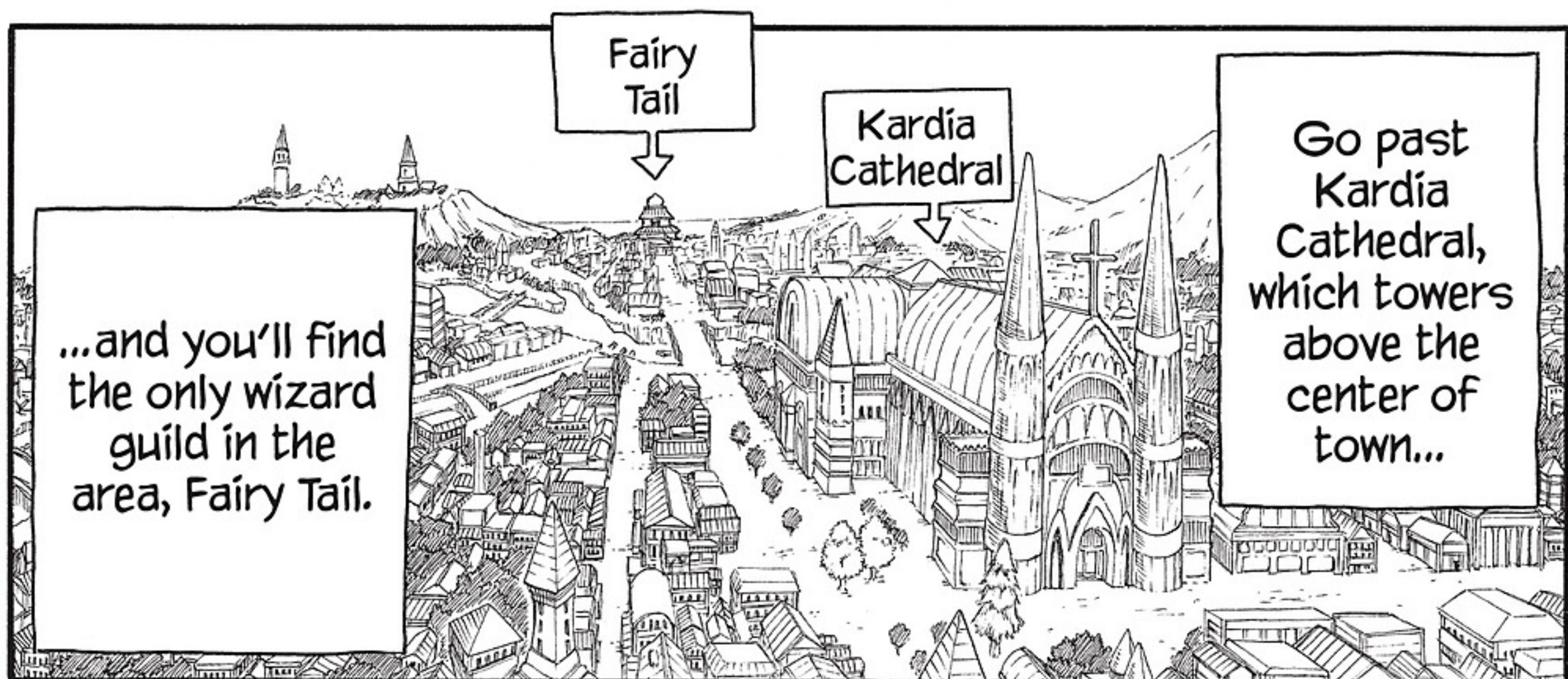
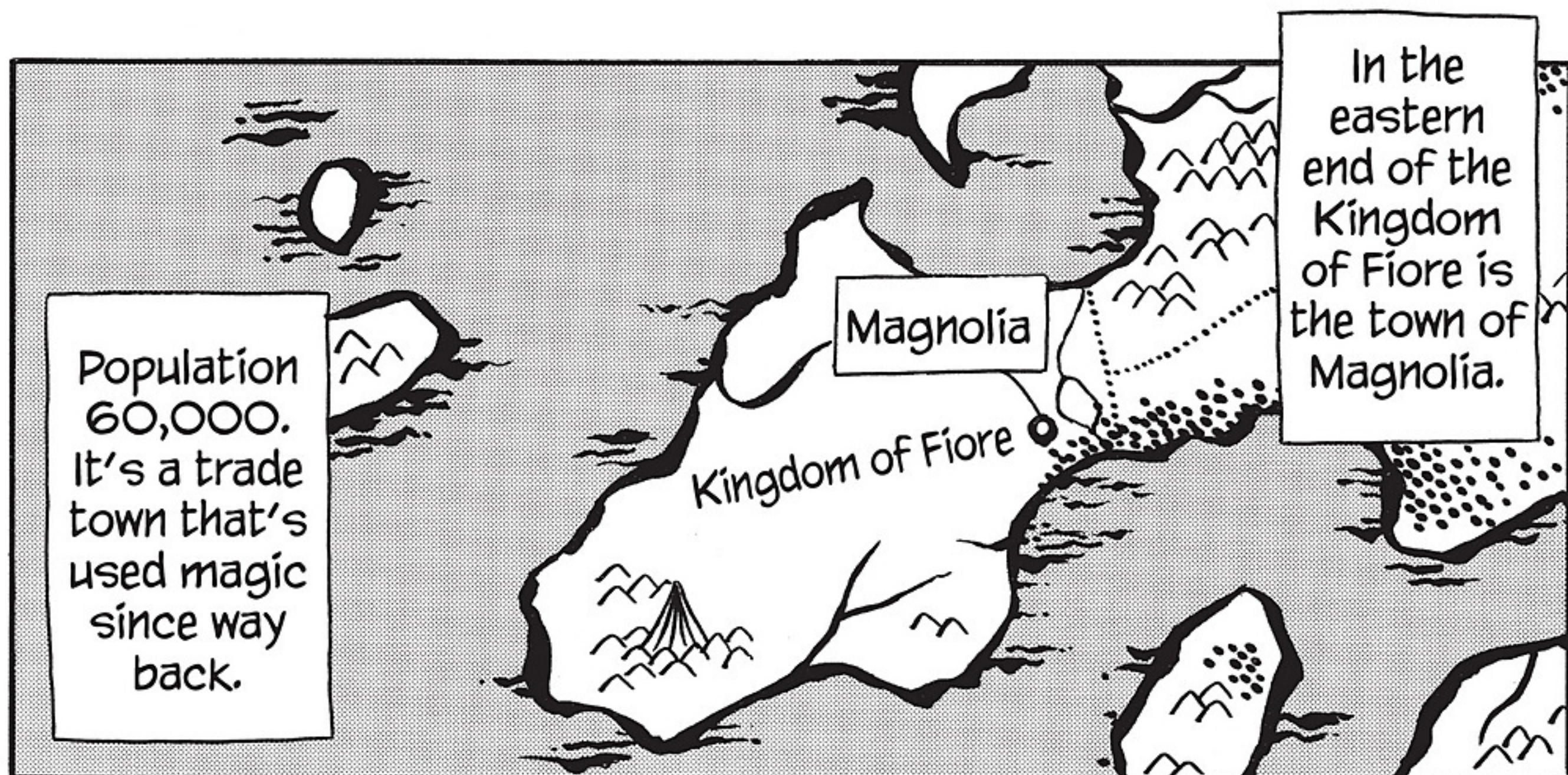
Oh,
and...



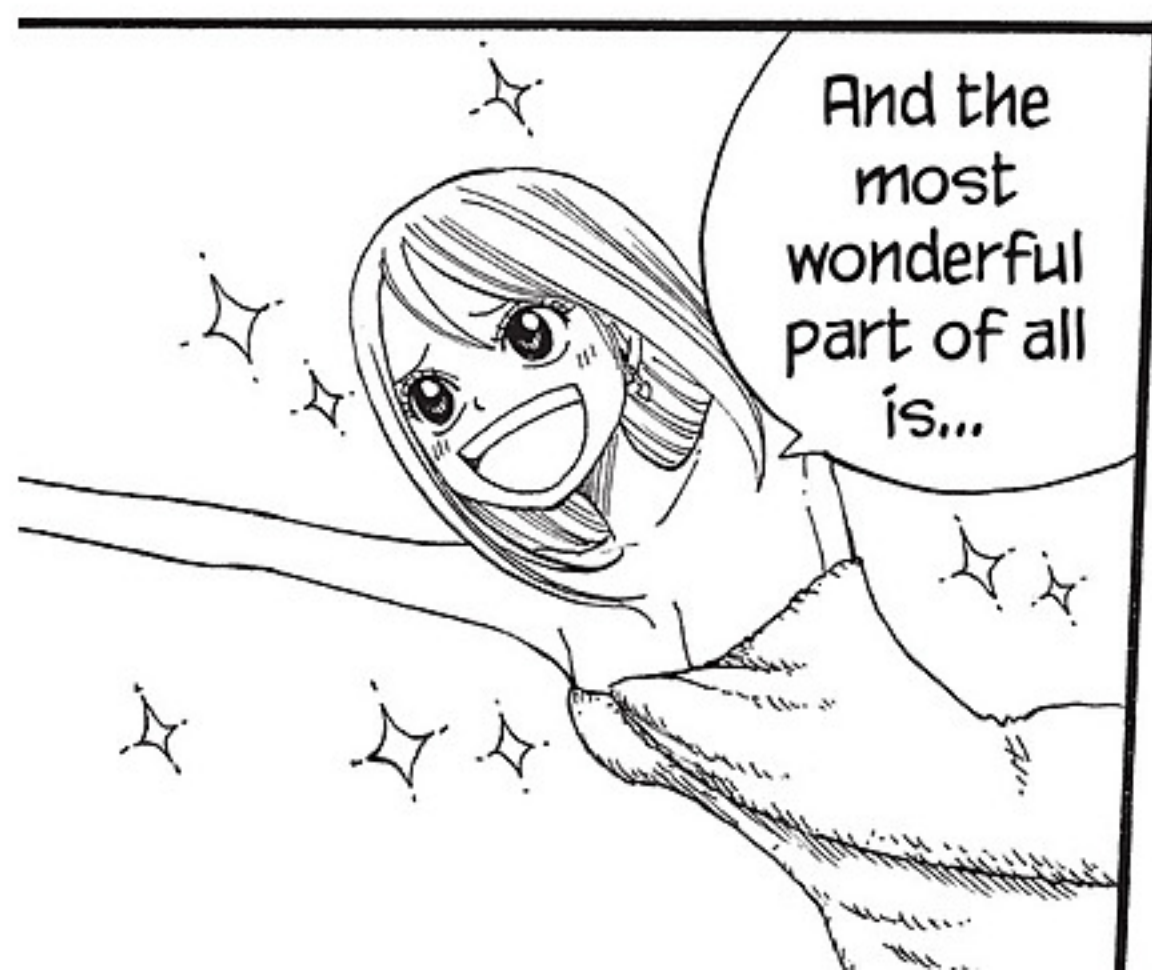
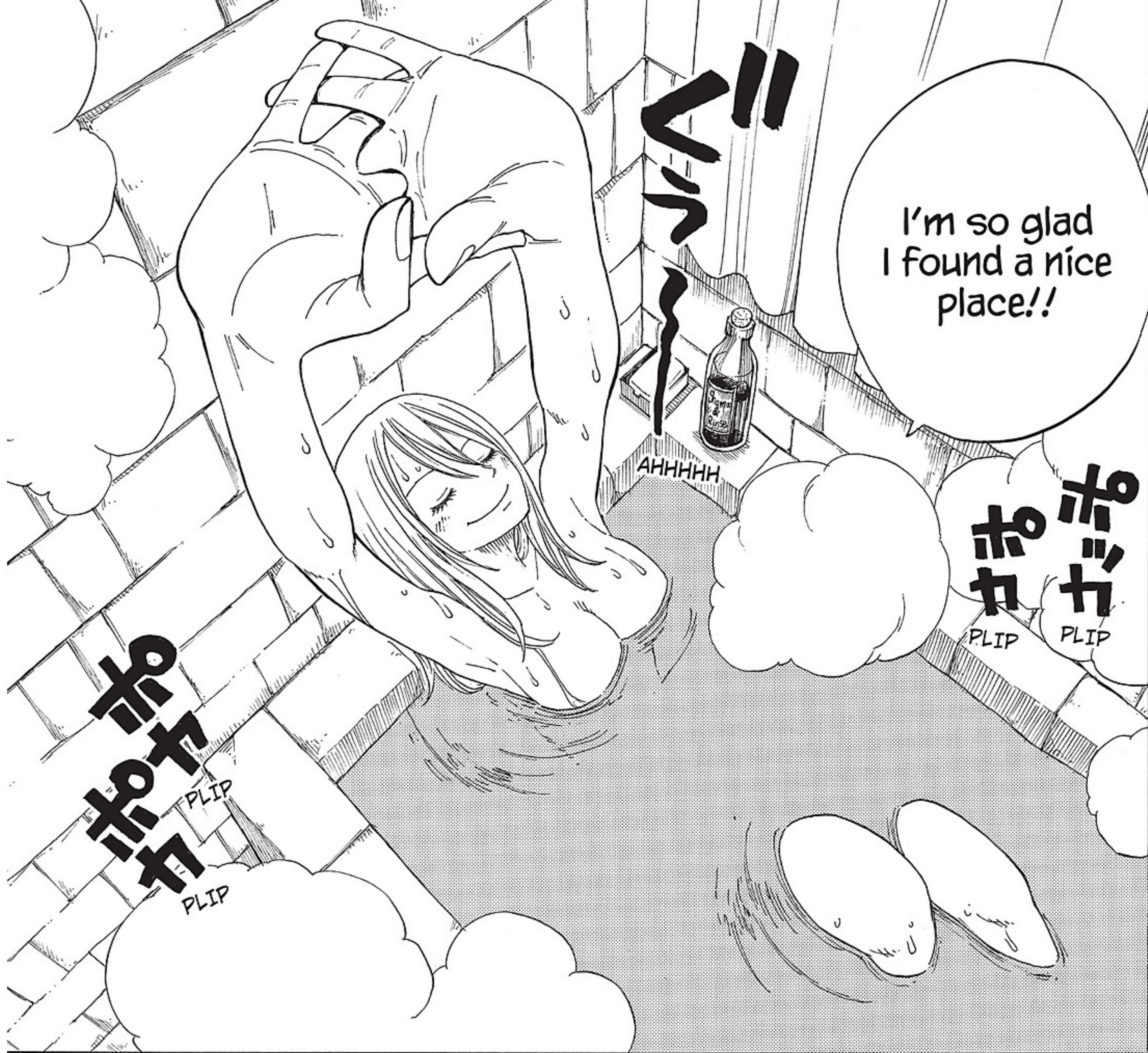


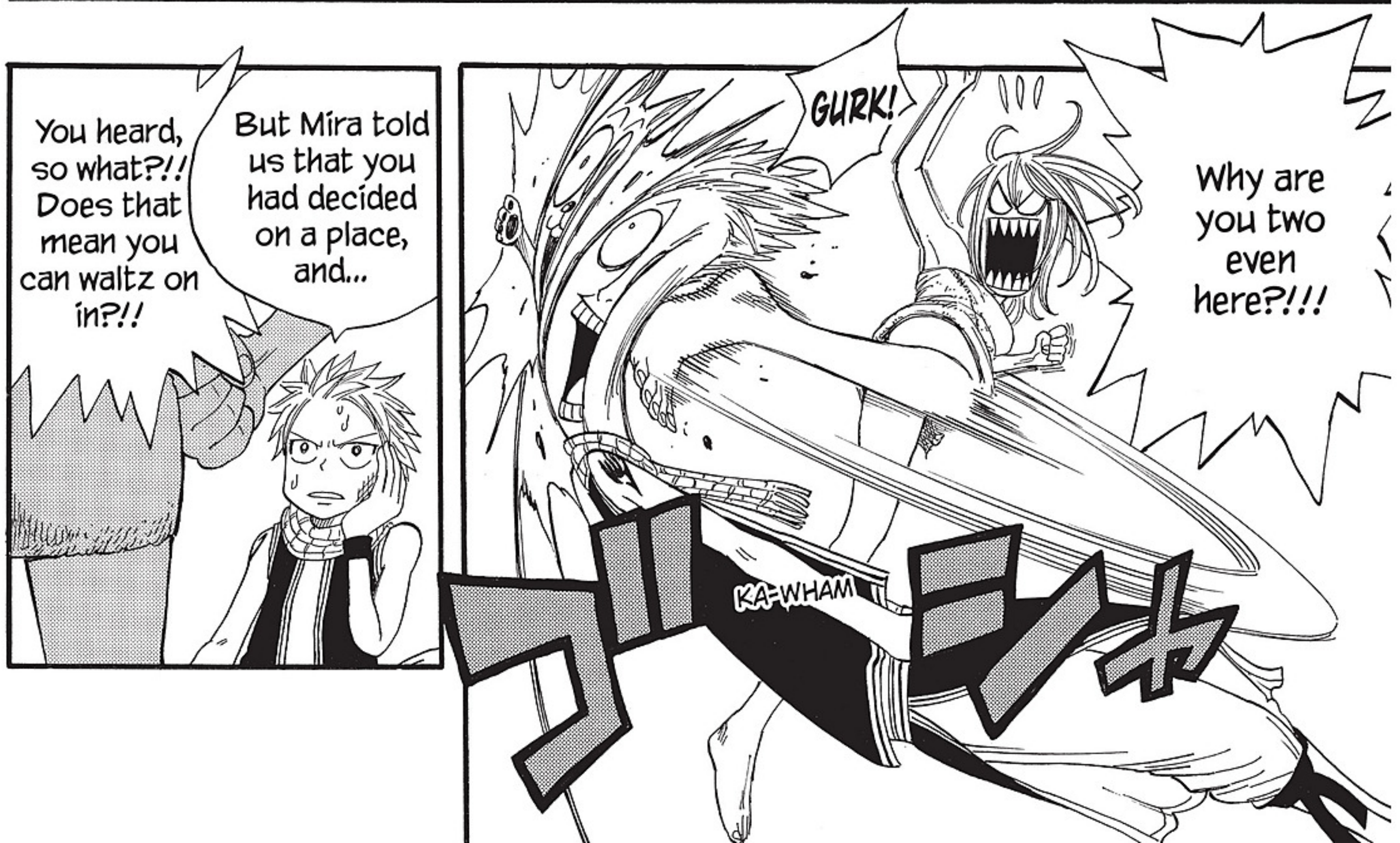
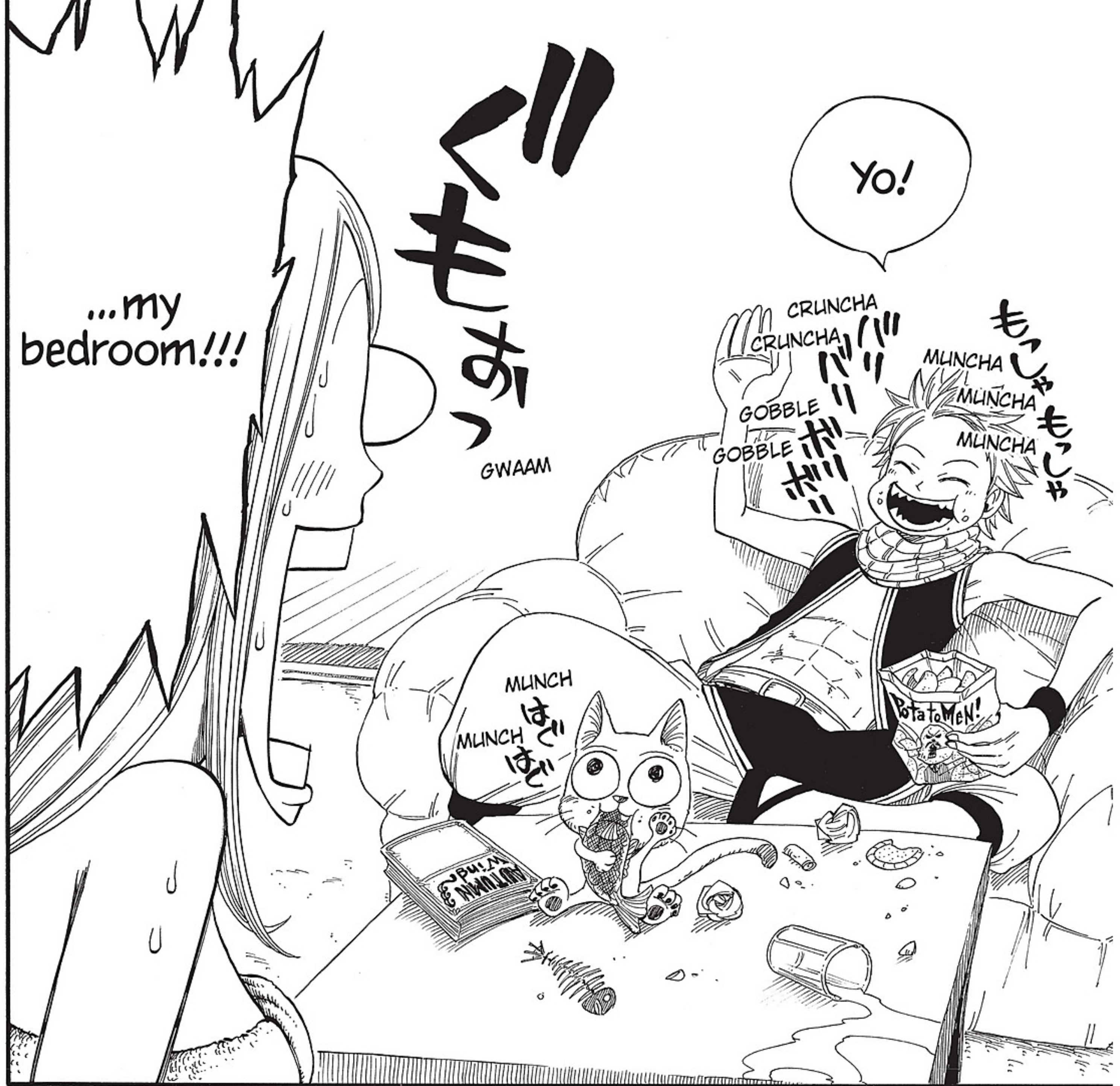
RAINMAN

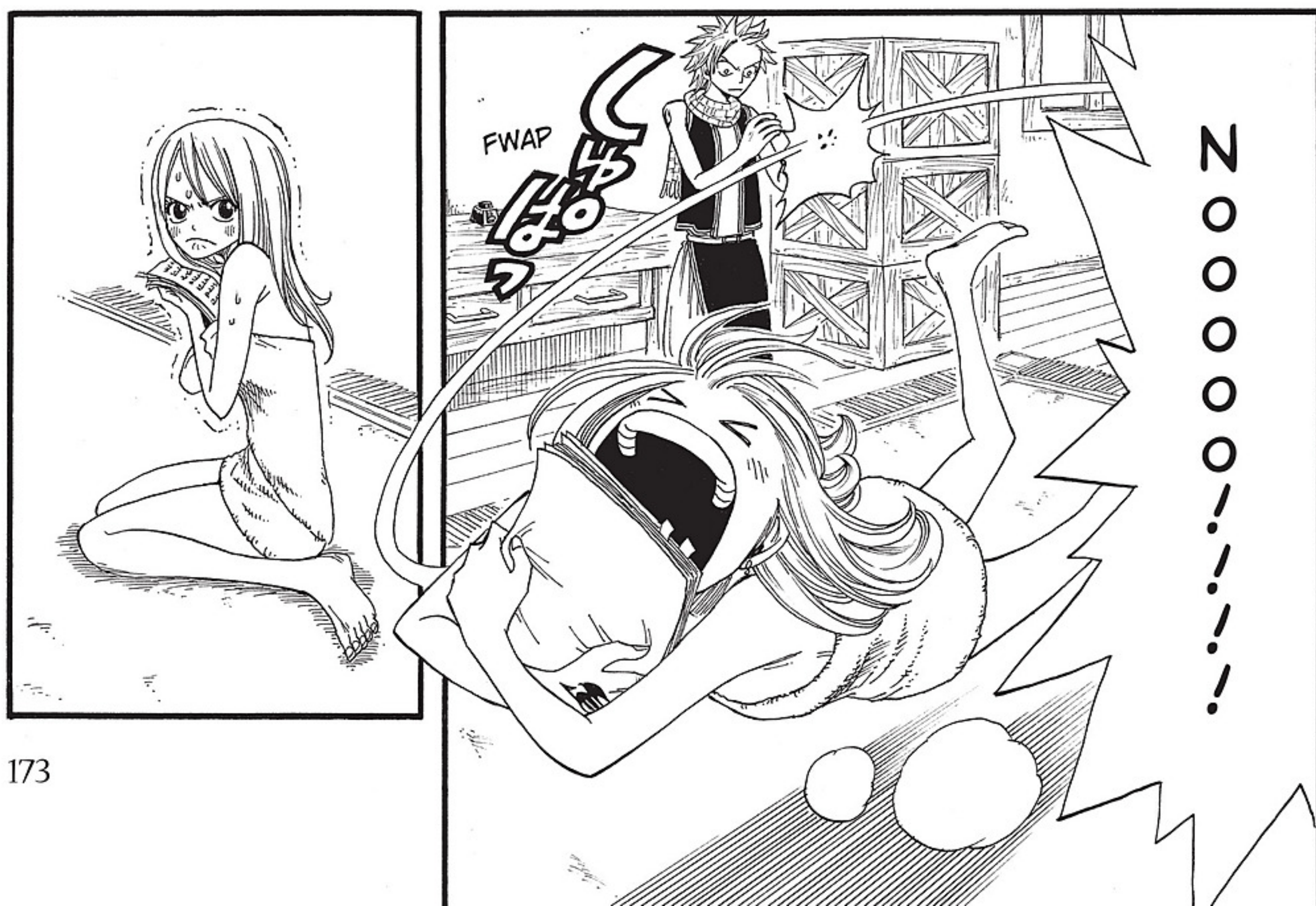


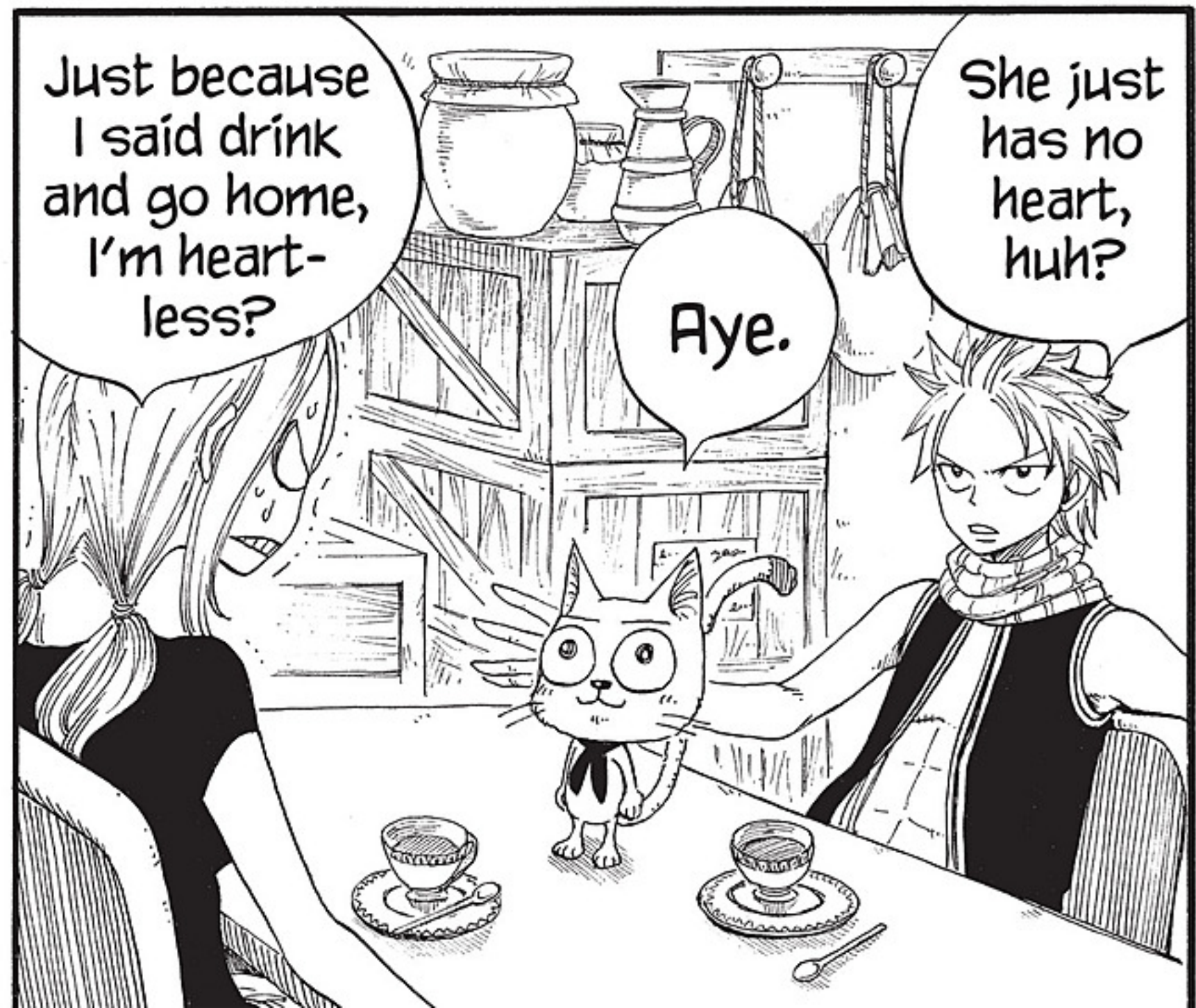
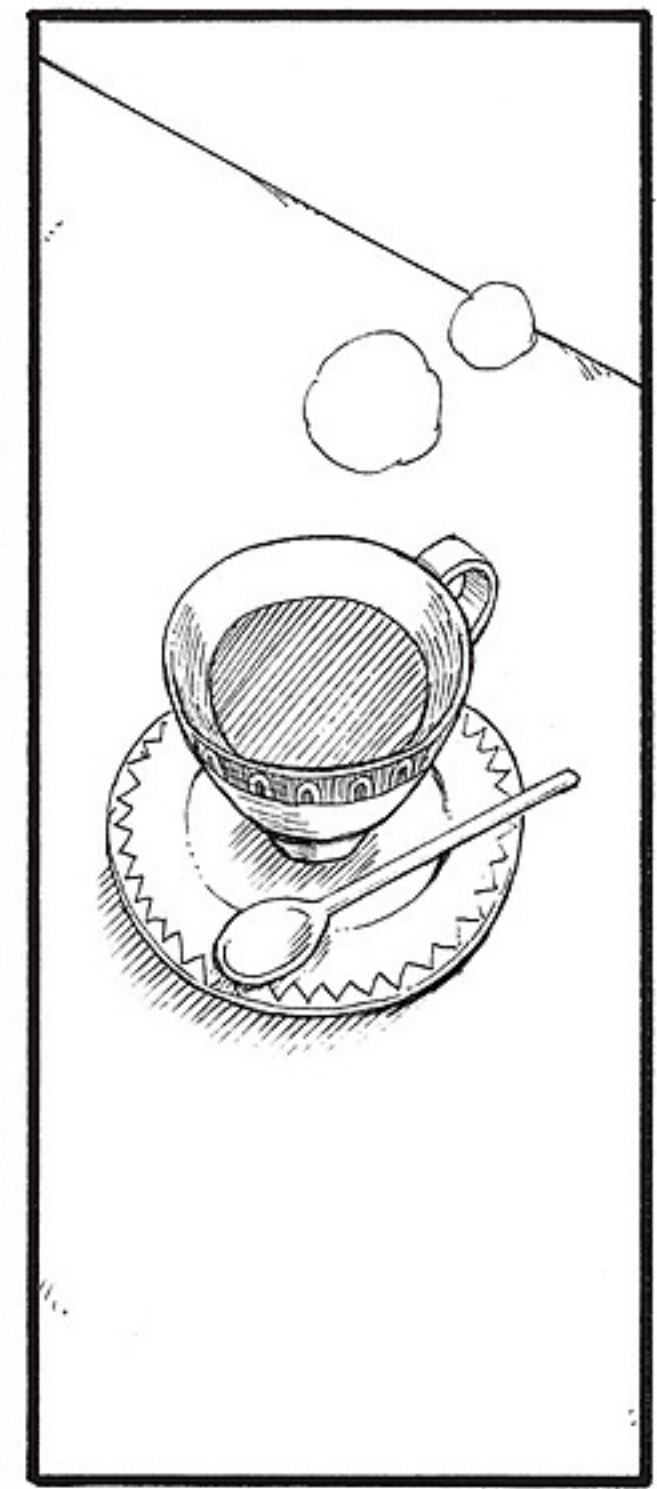
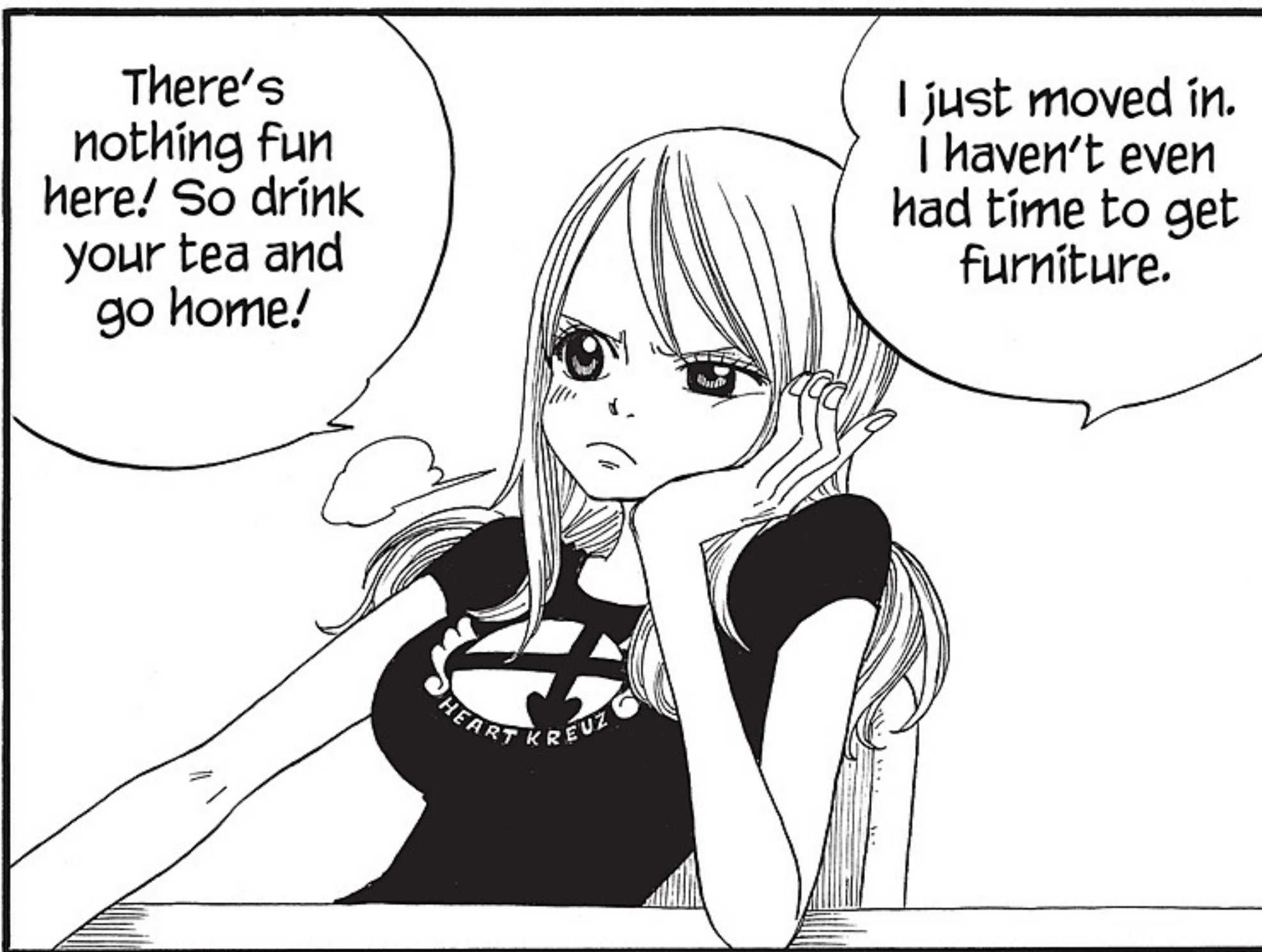
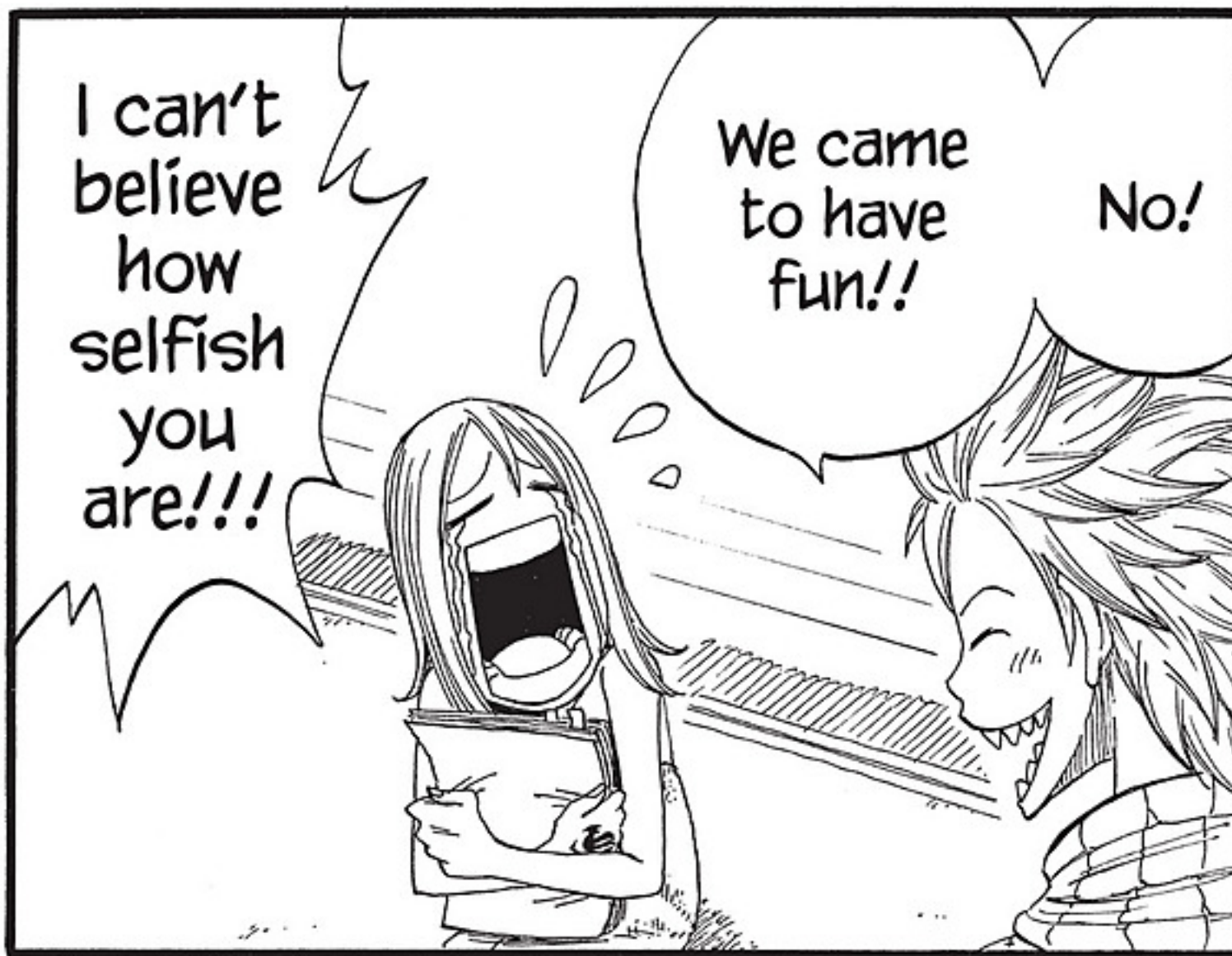


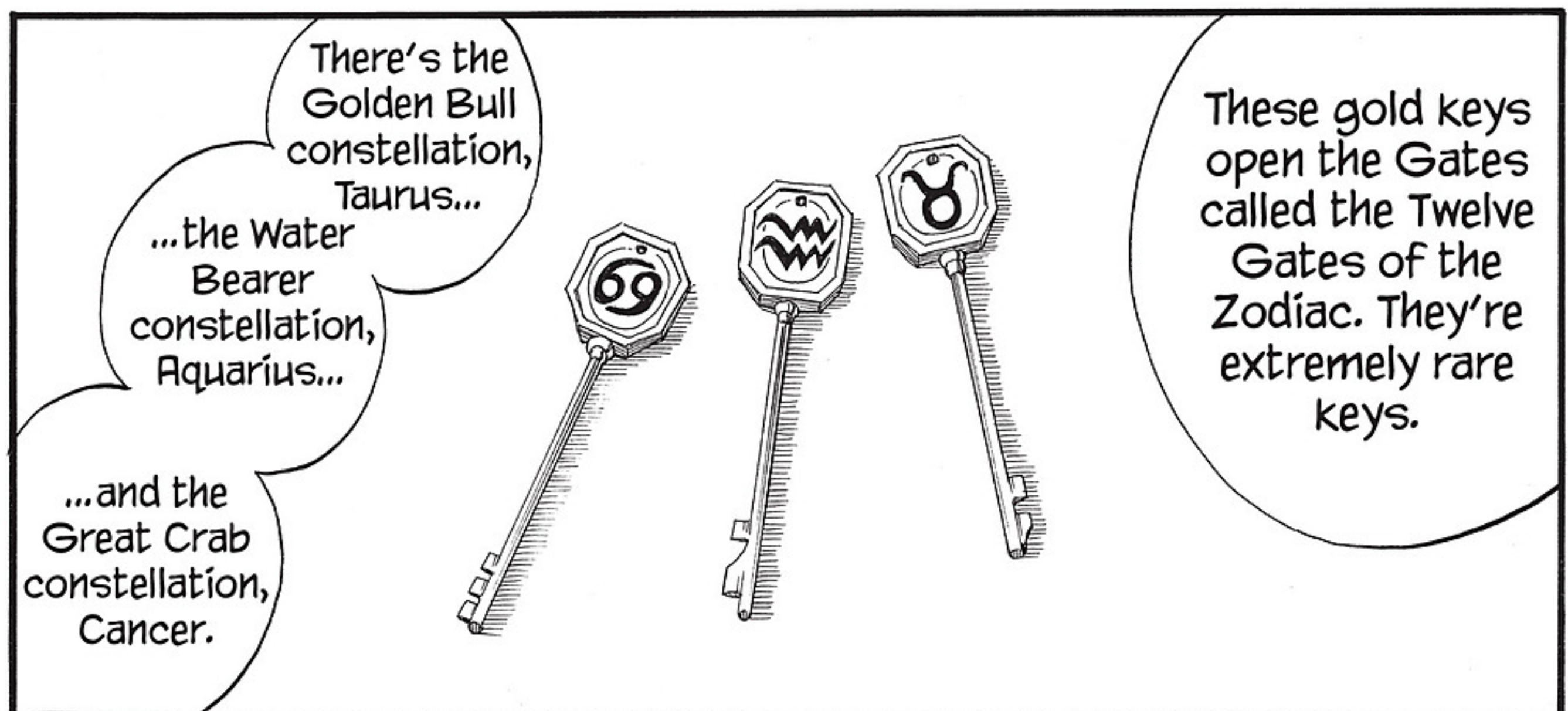
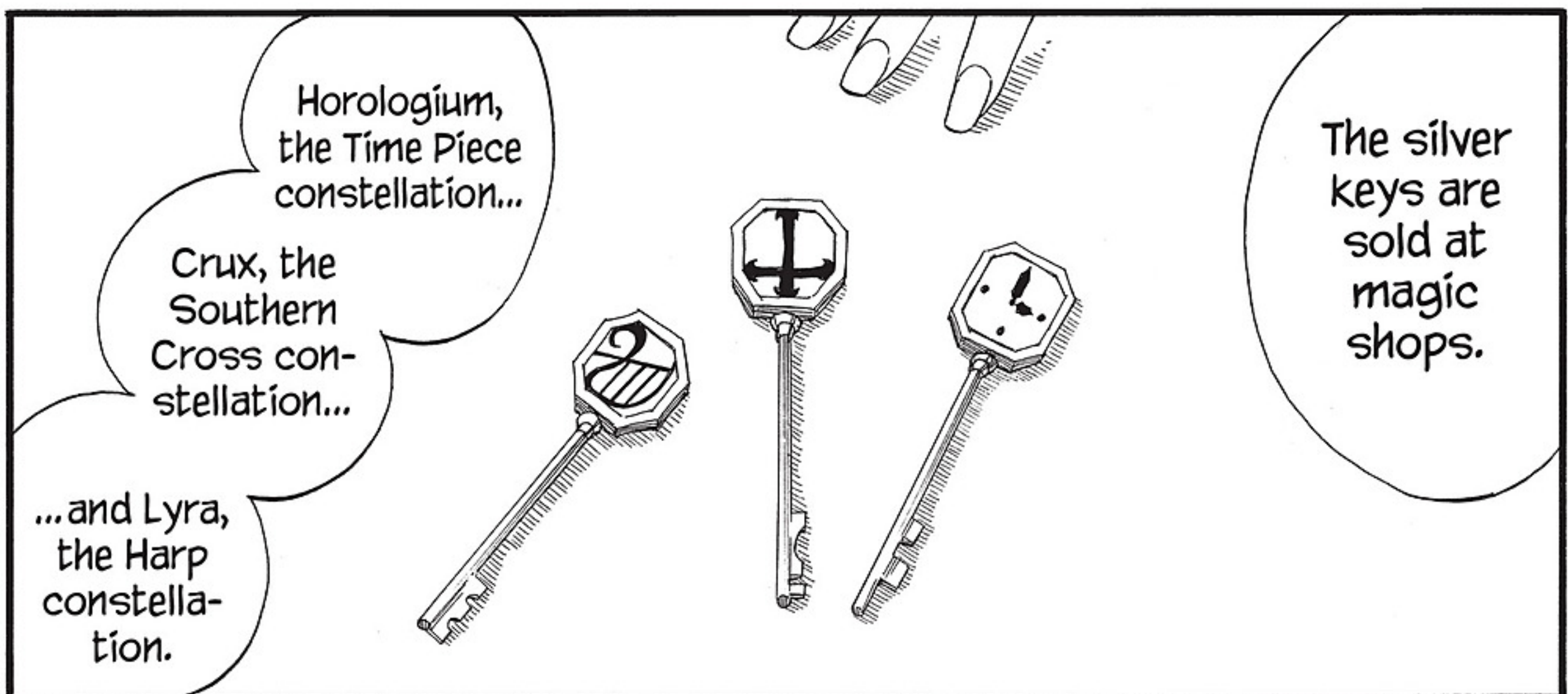
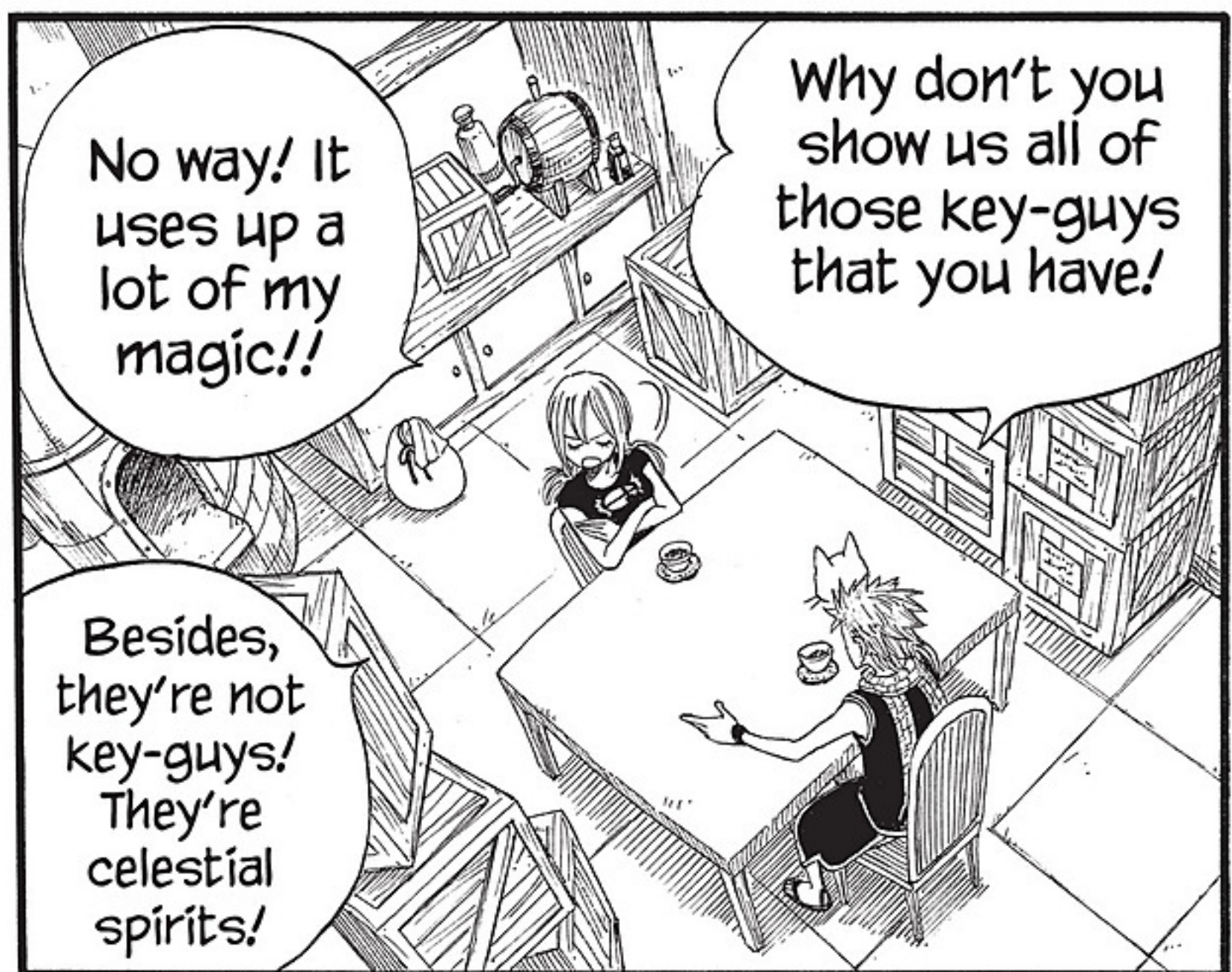
Chapter 4: The Celestial Spirit of Canis Minor

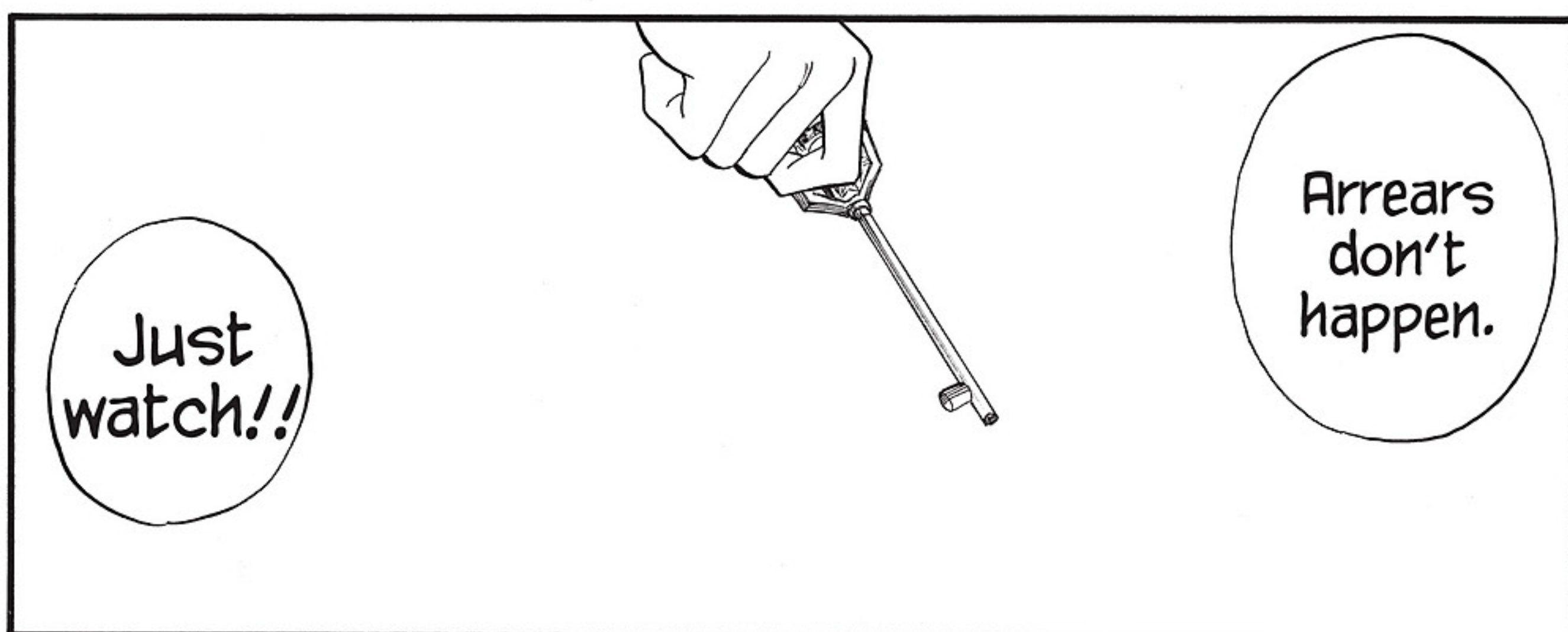
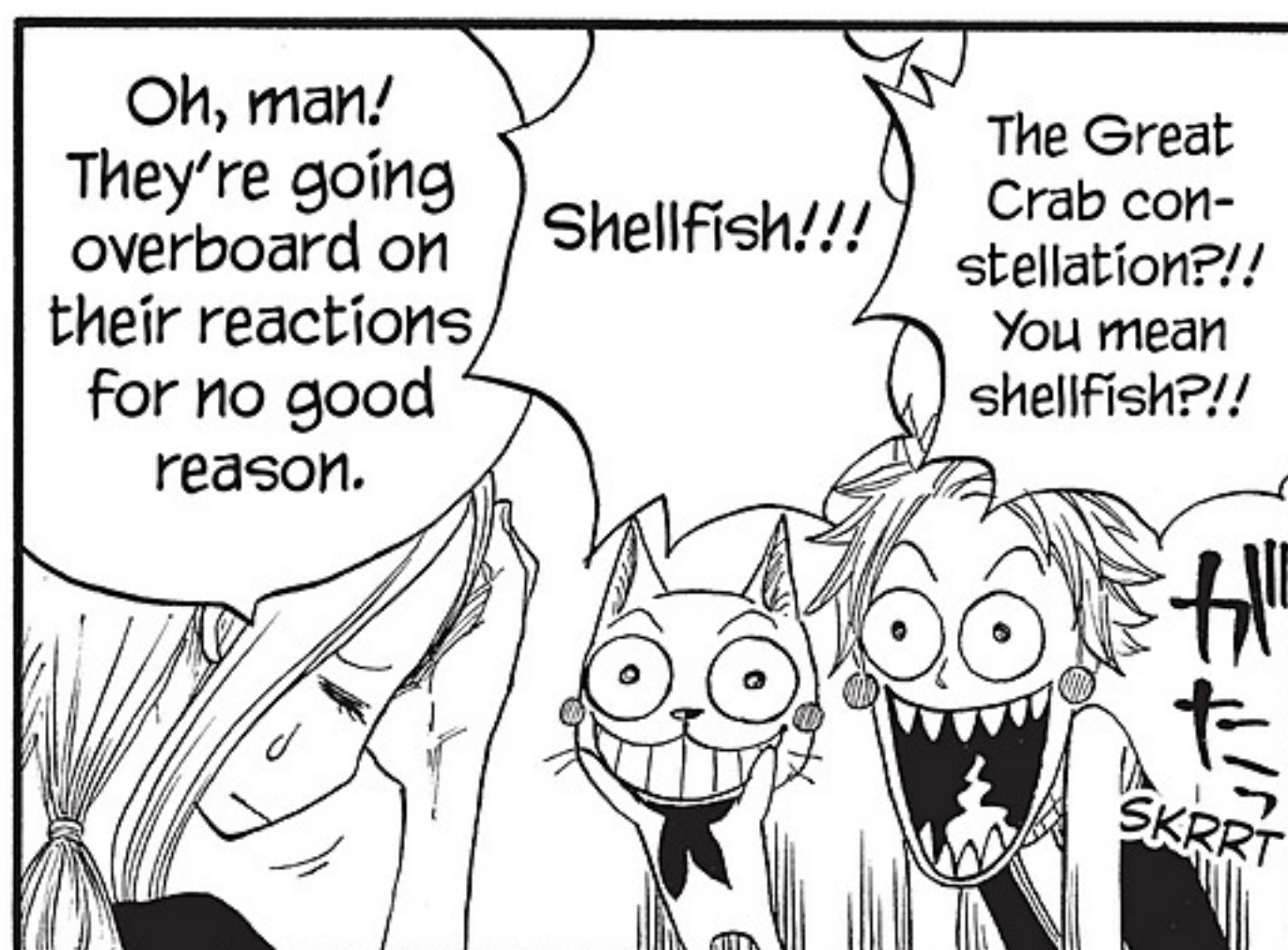


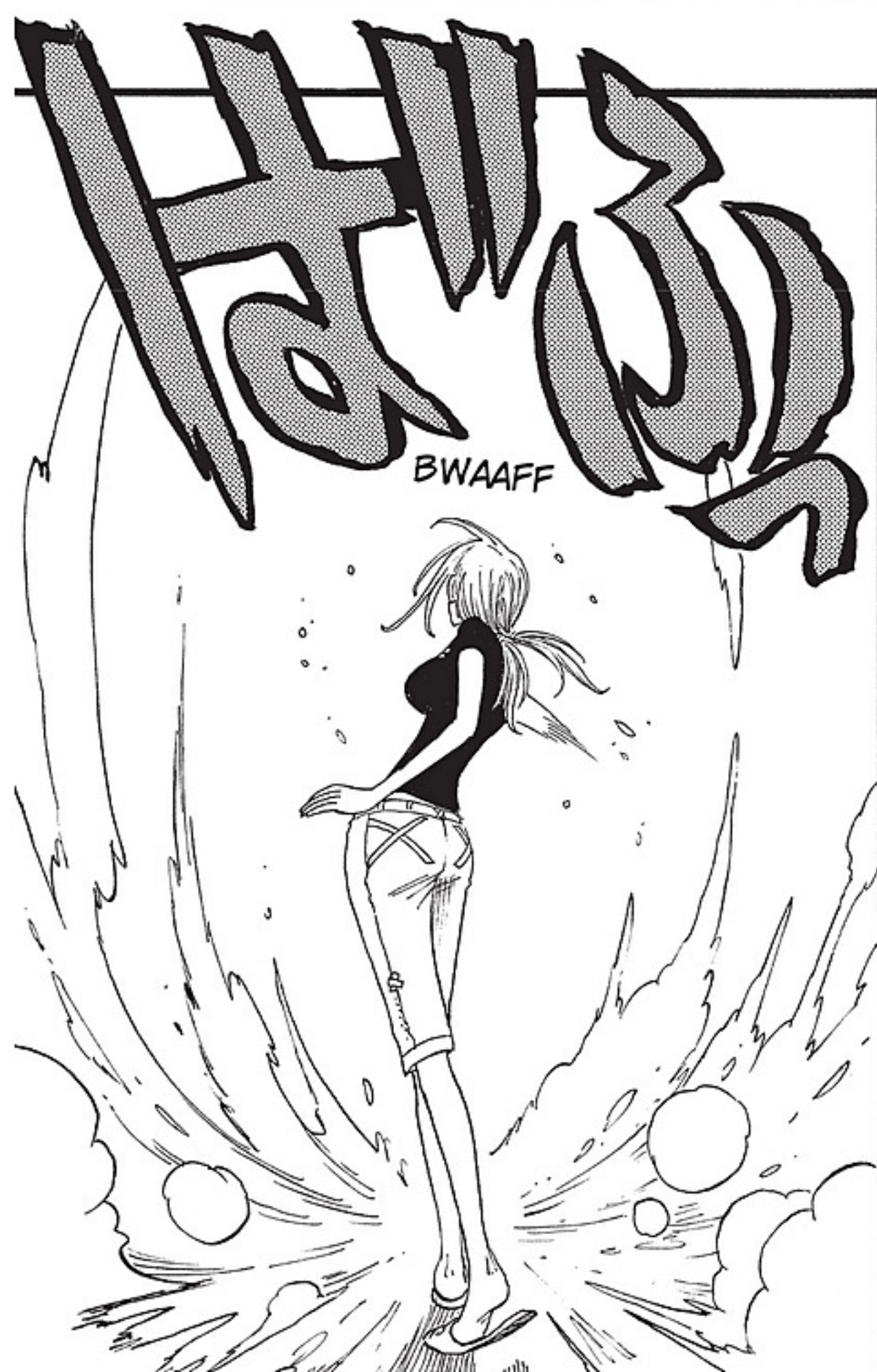
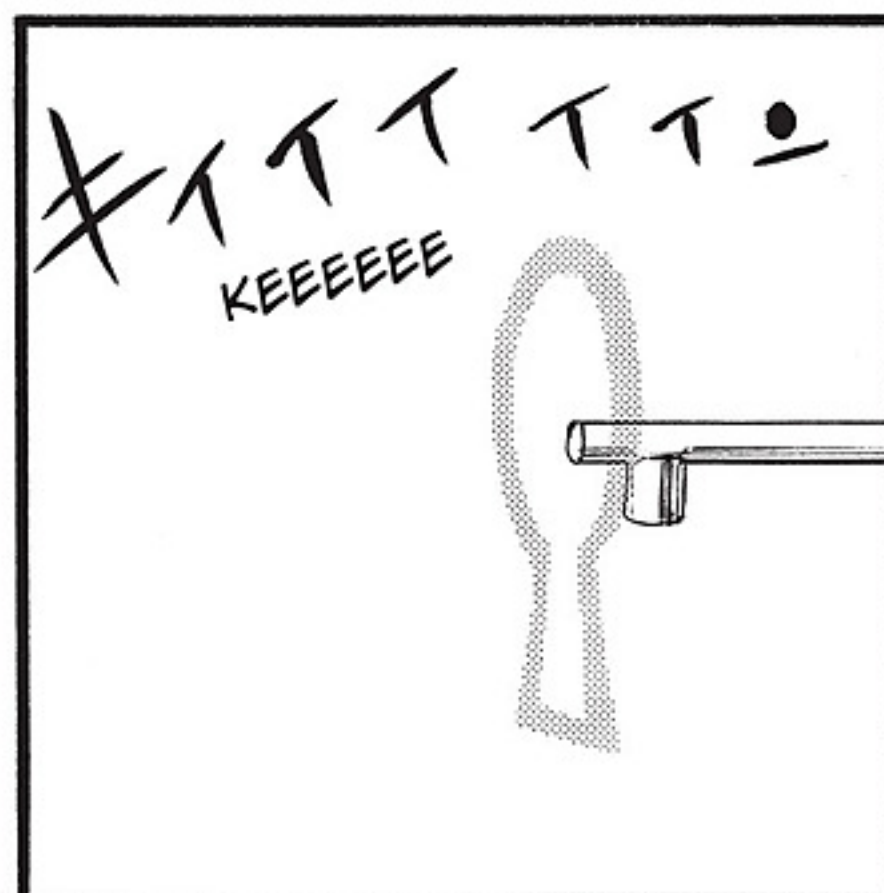
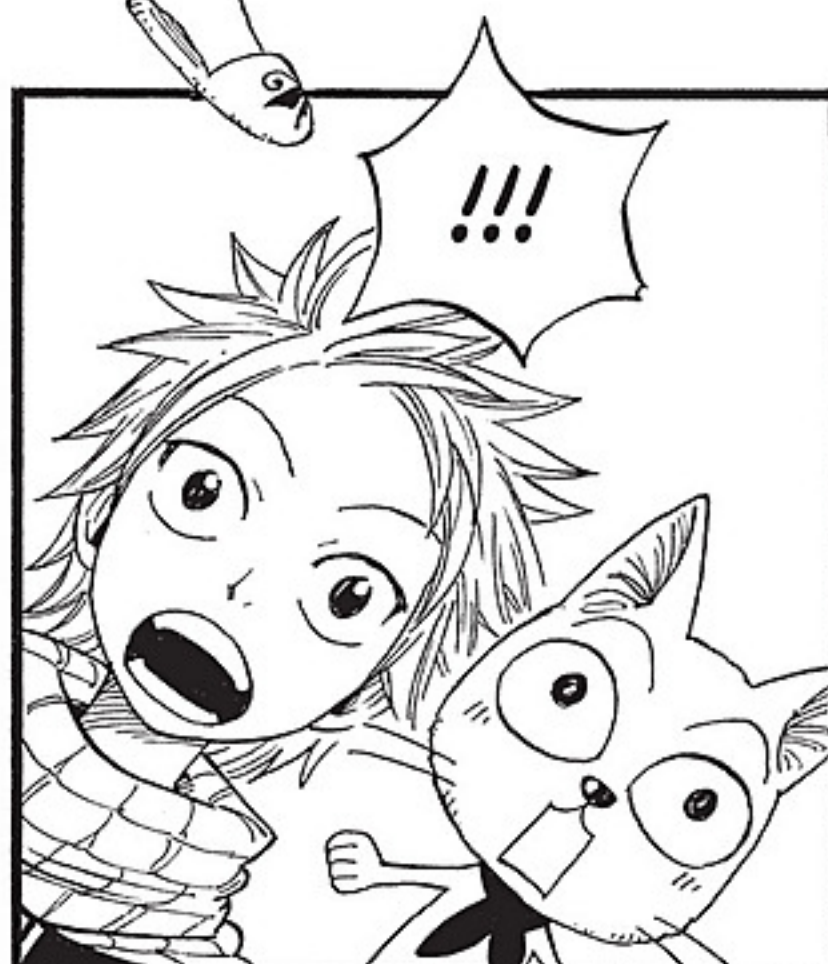
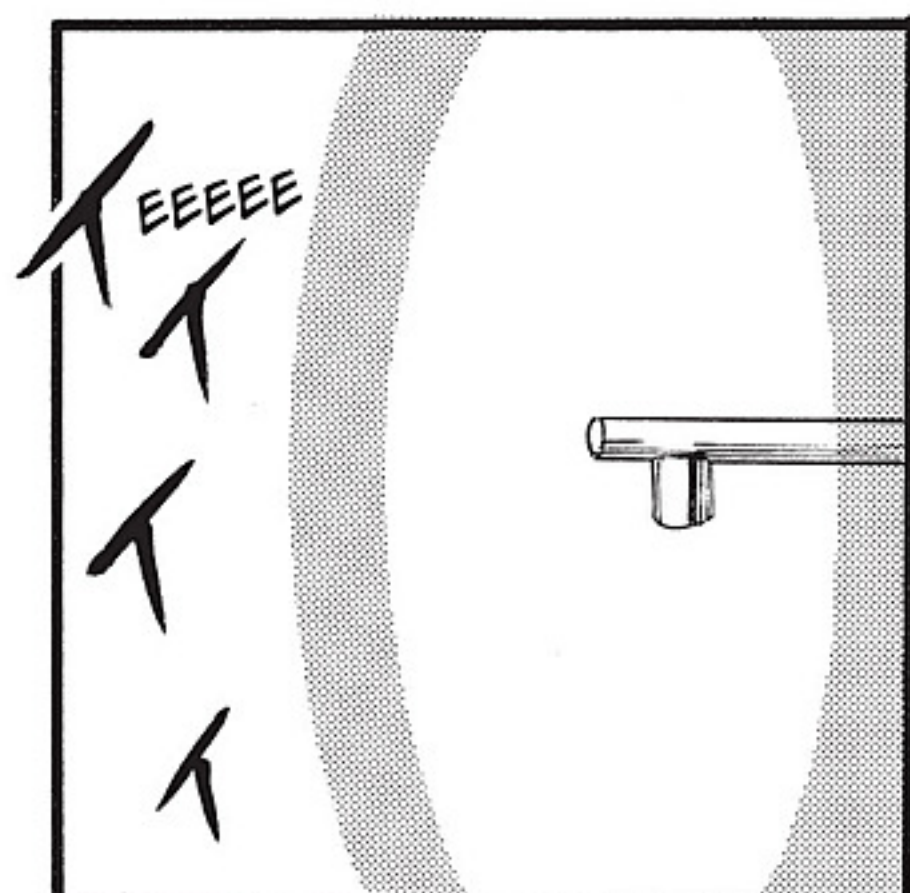
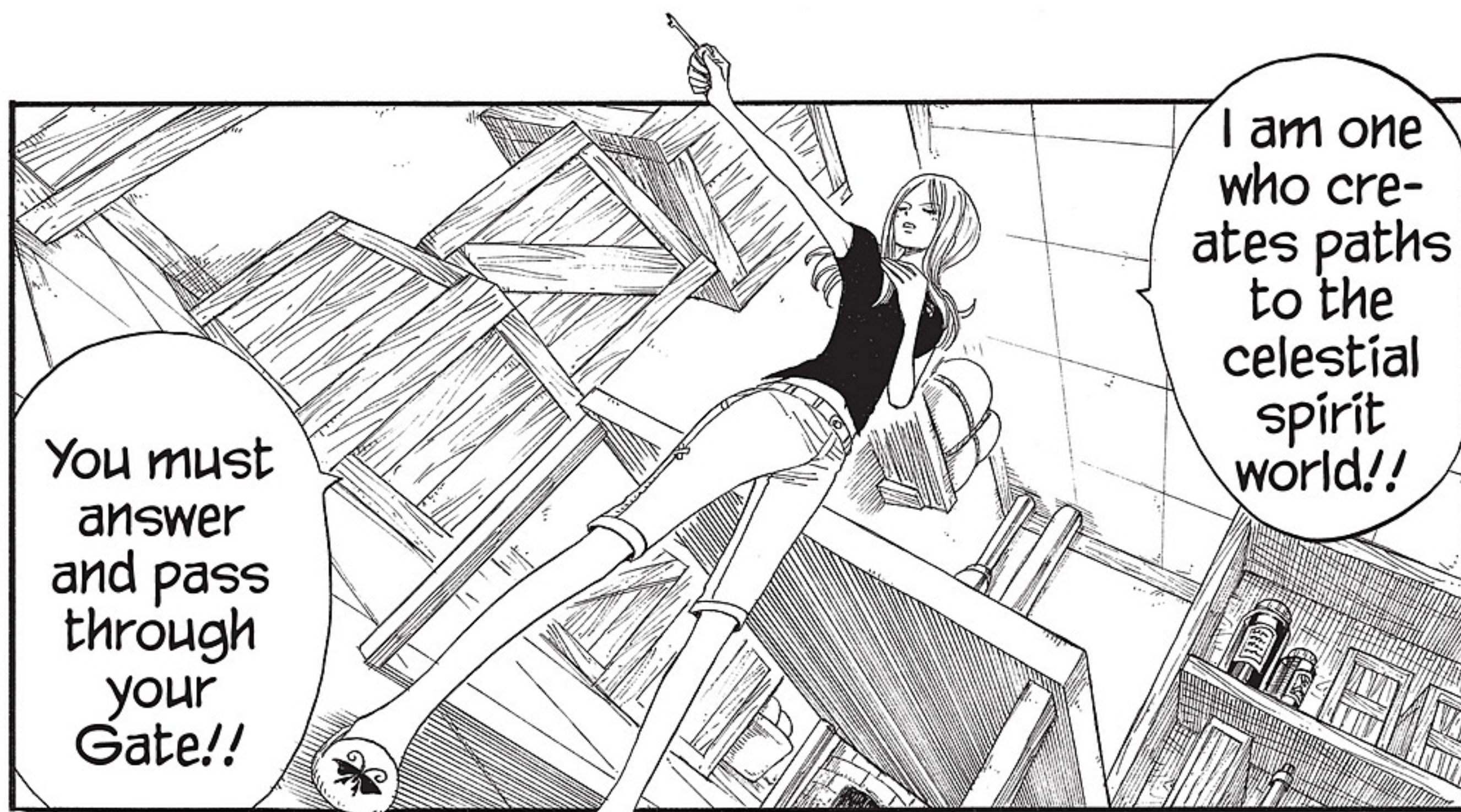


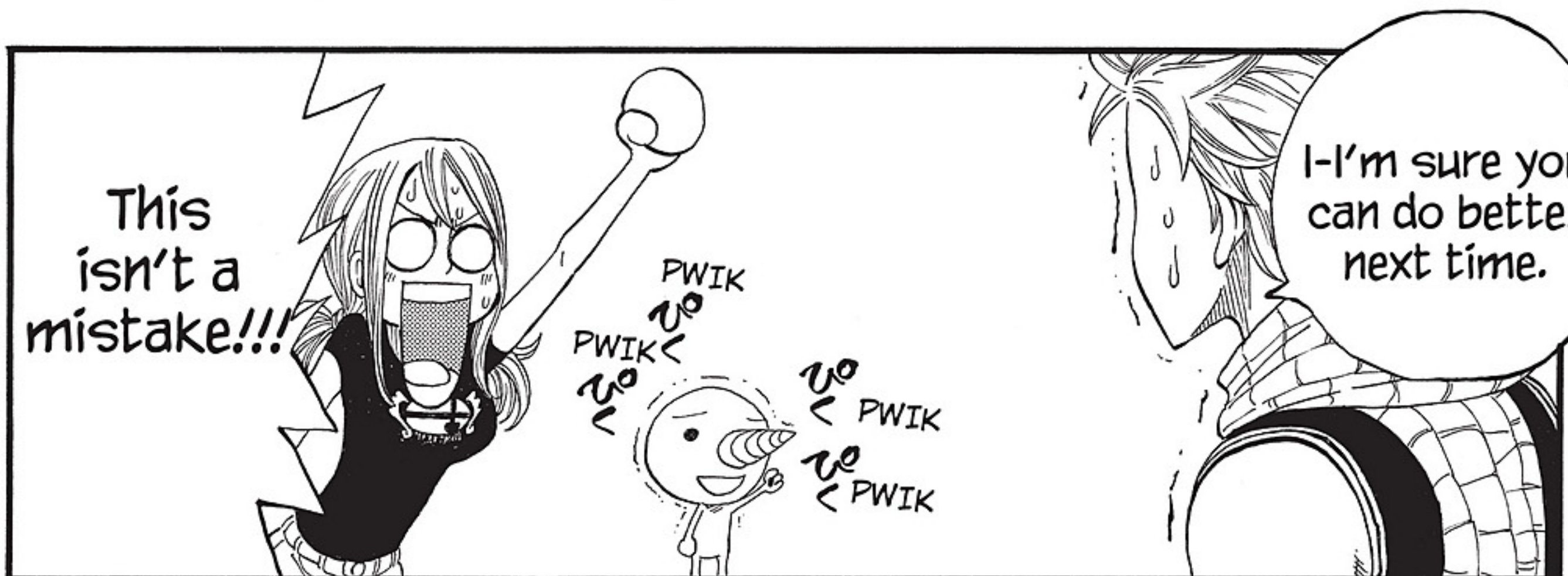
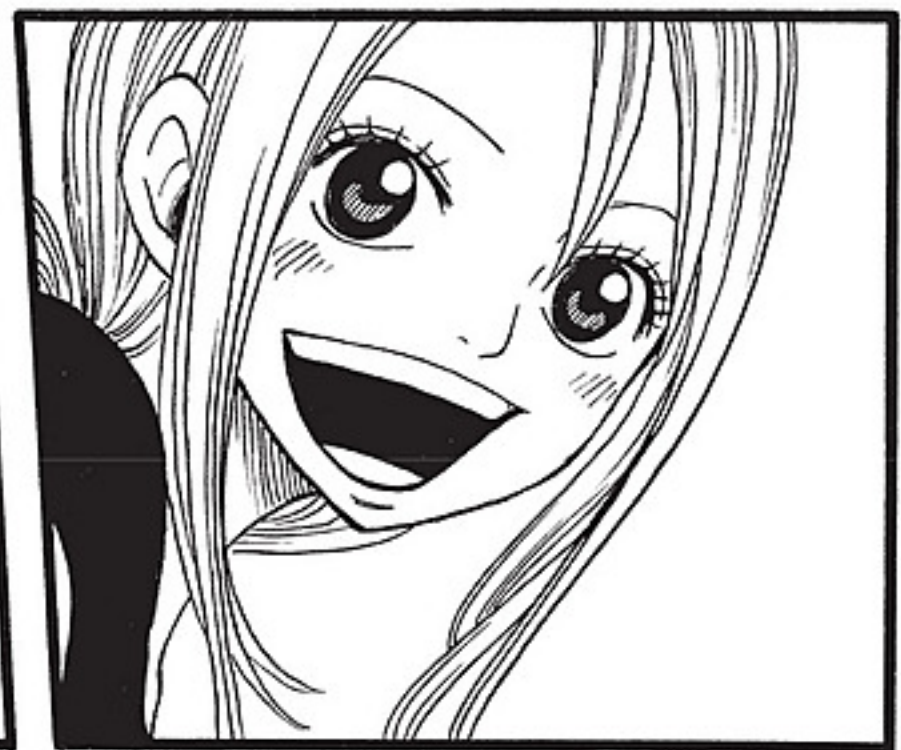
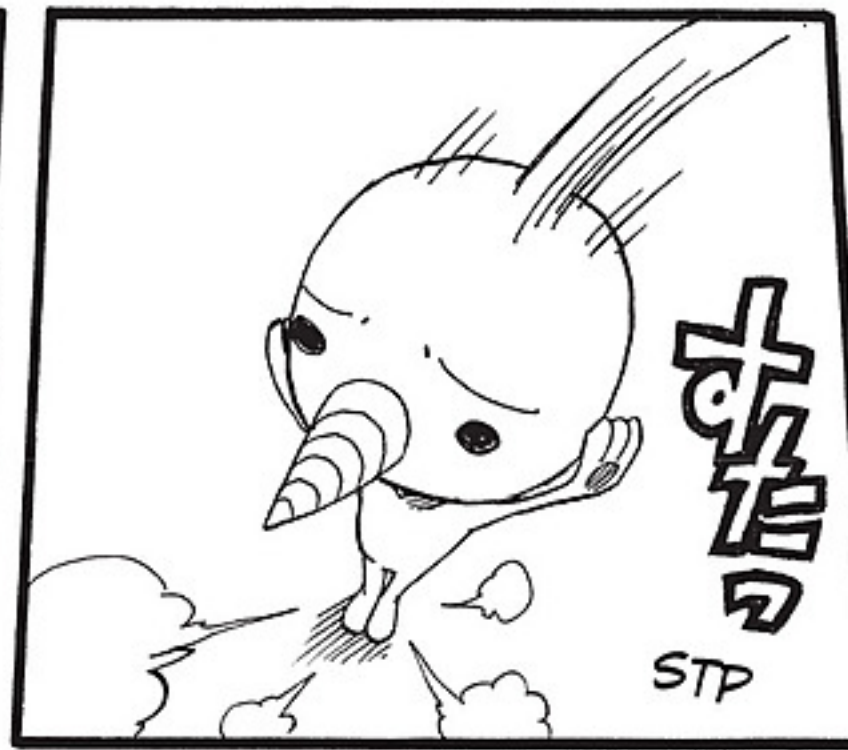


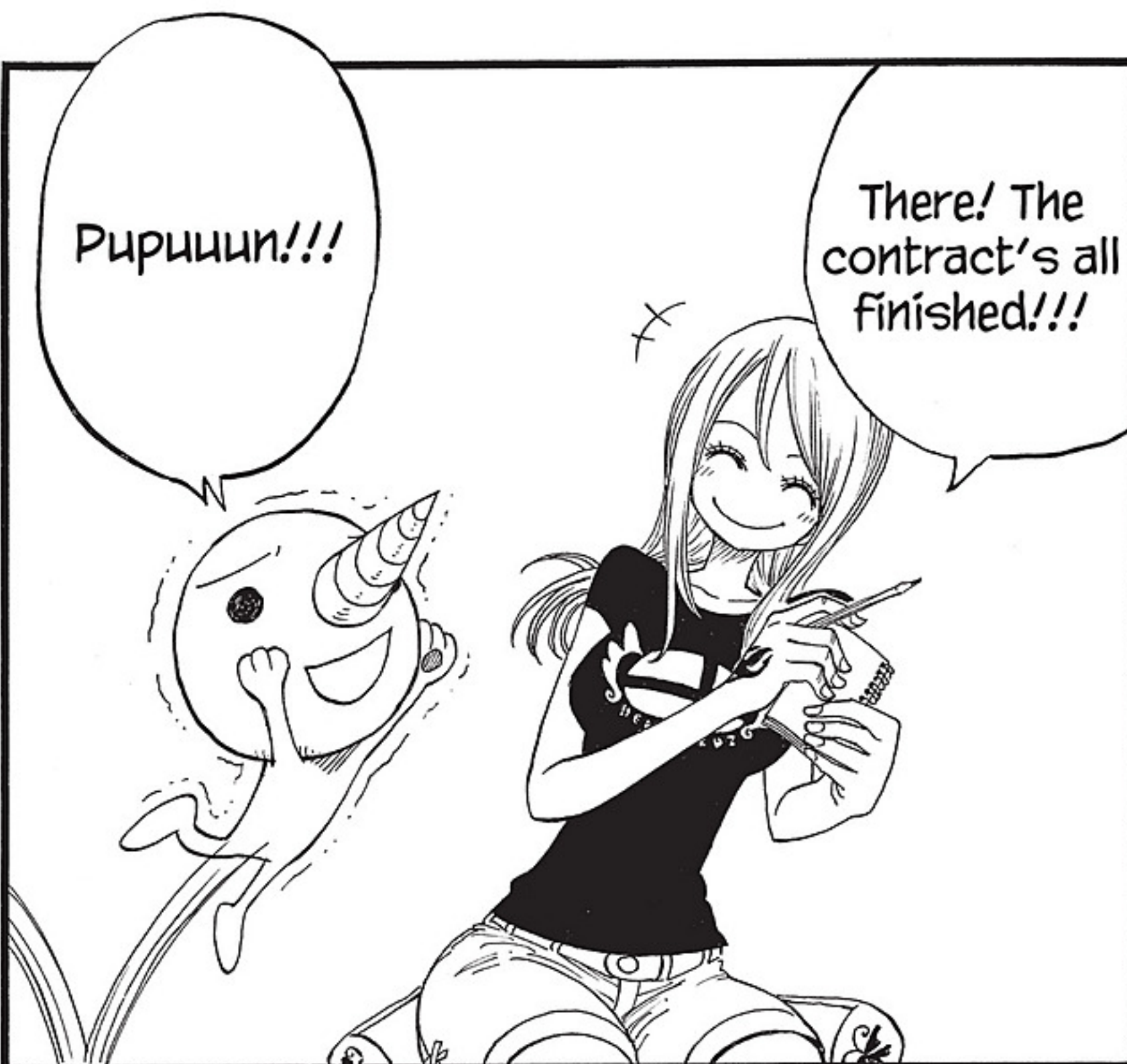
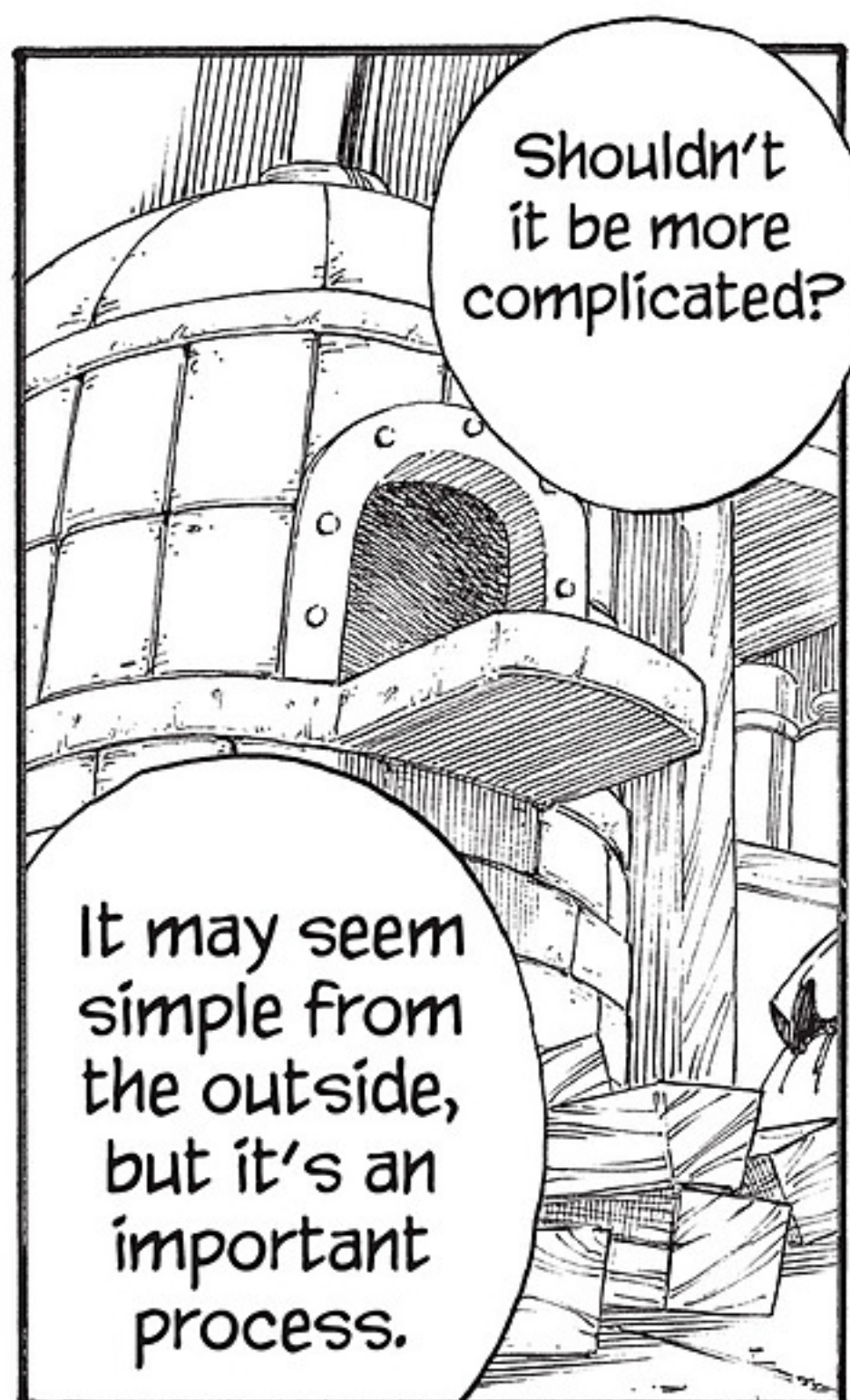
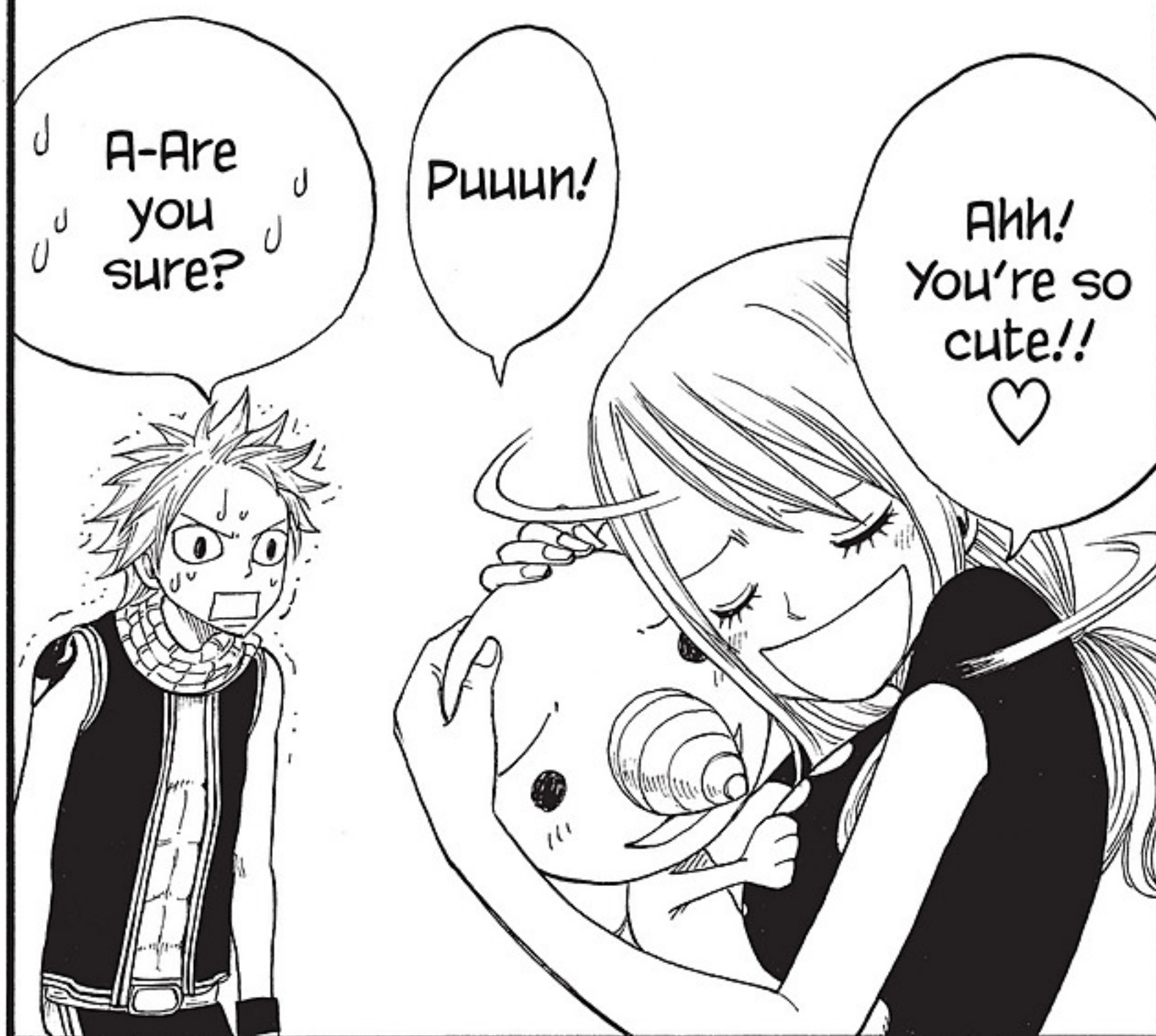
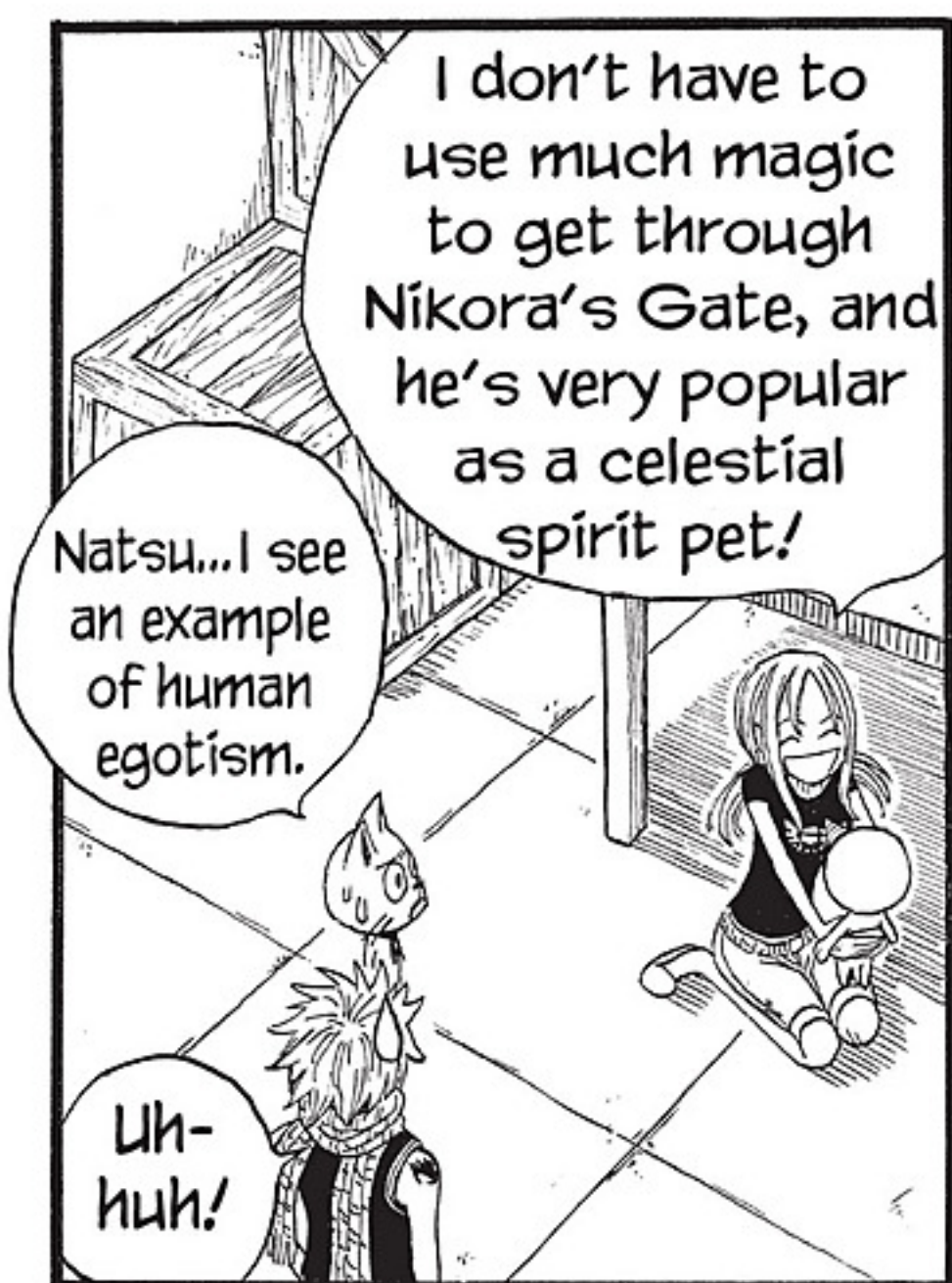


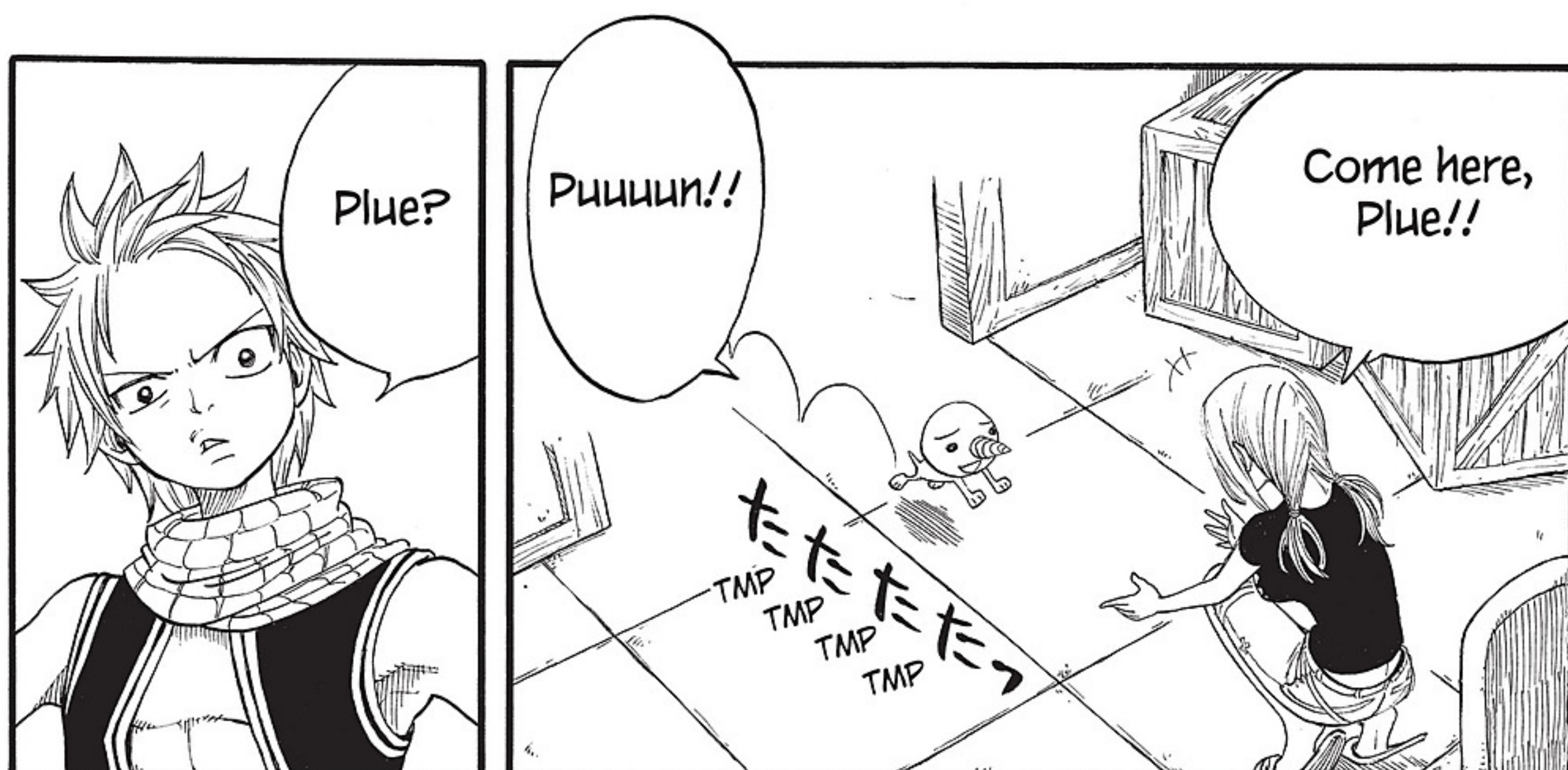
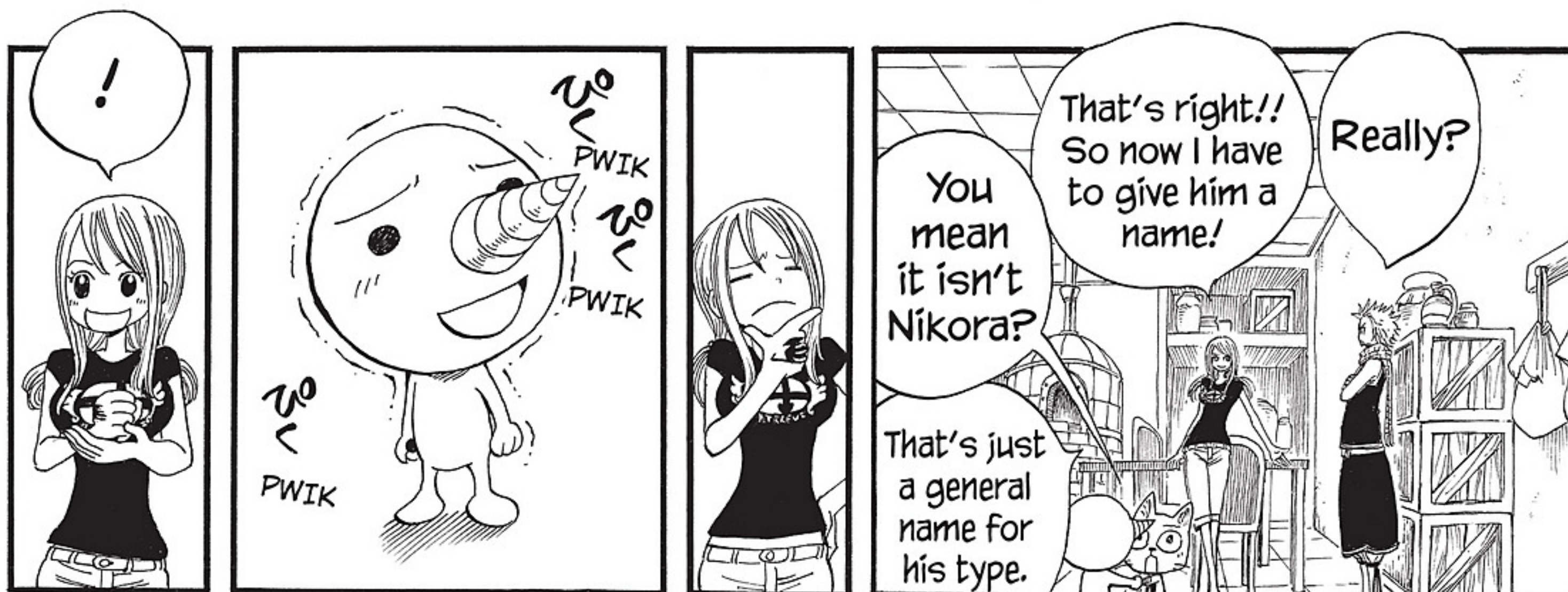
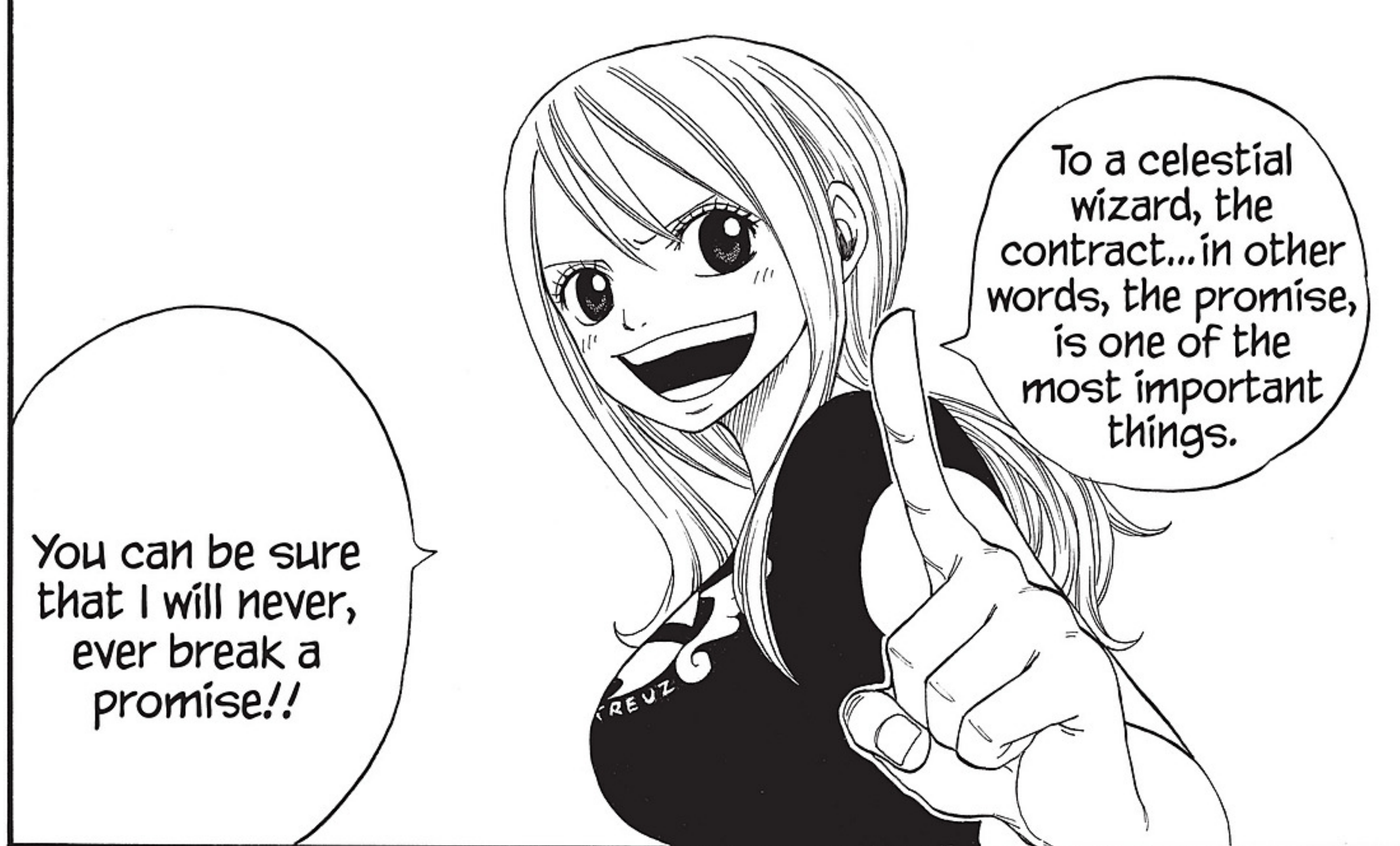


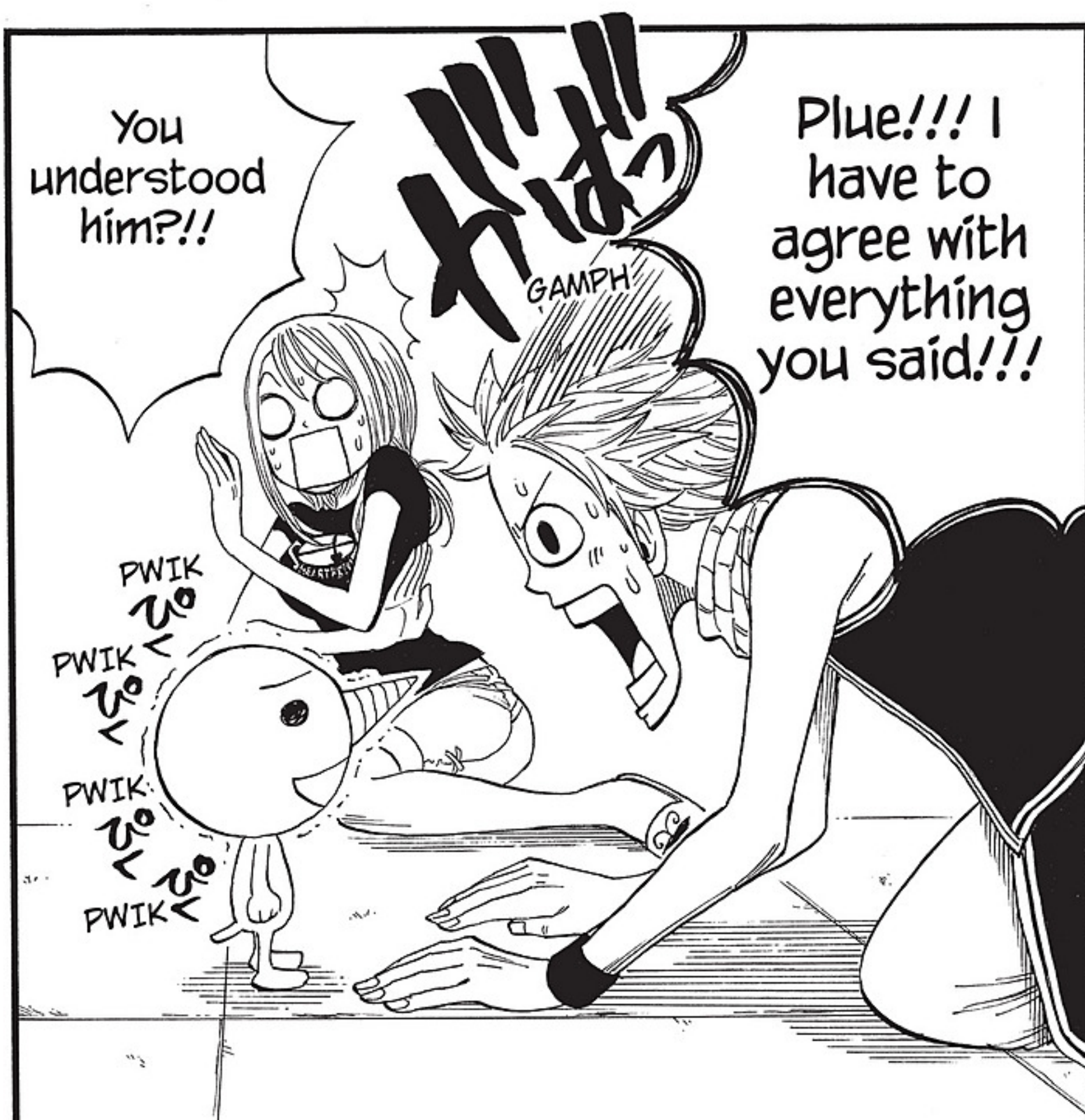
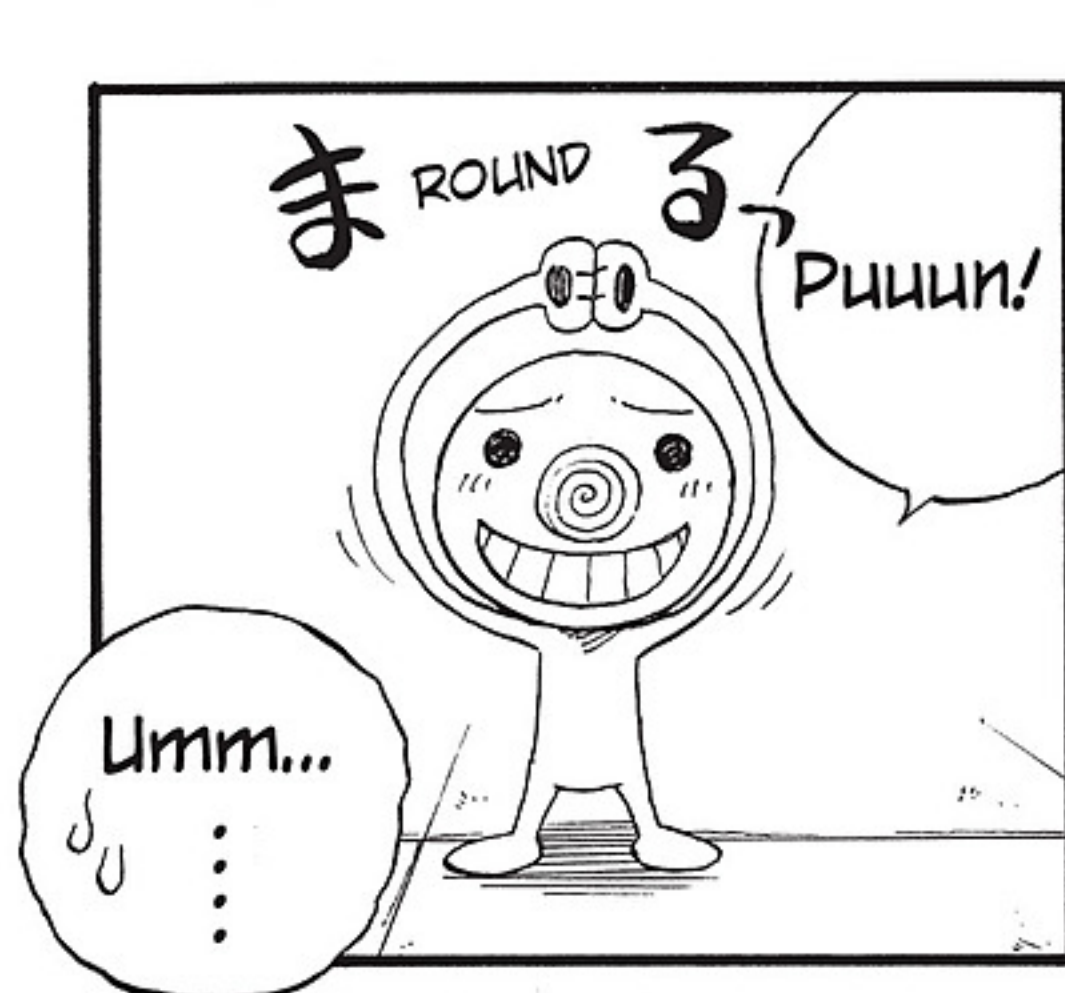
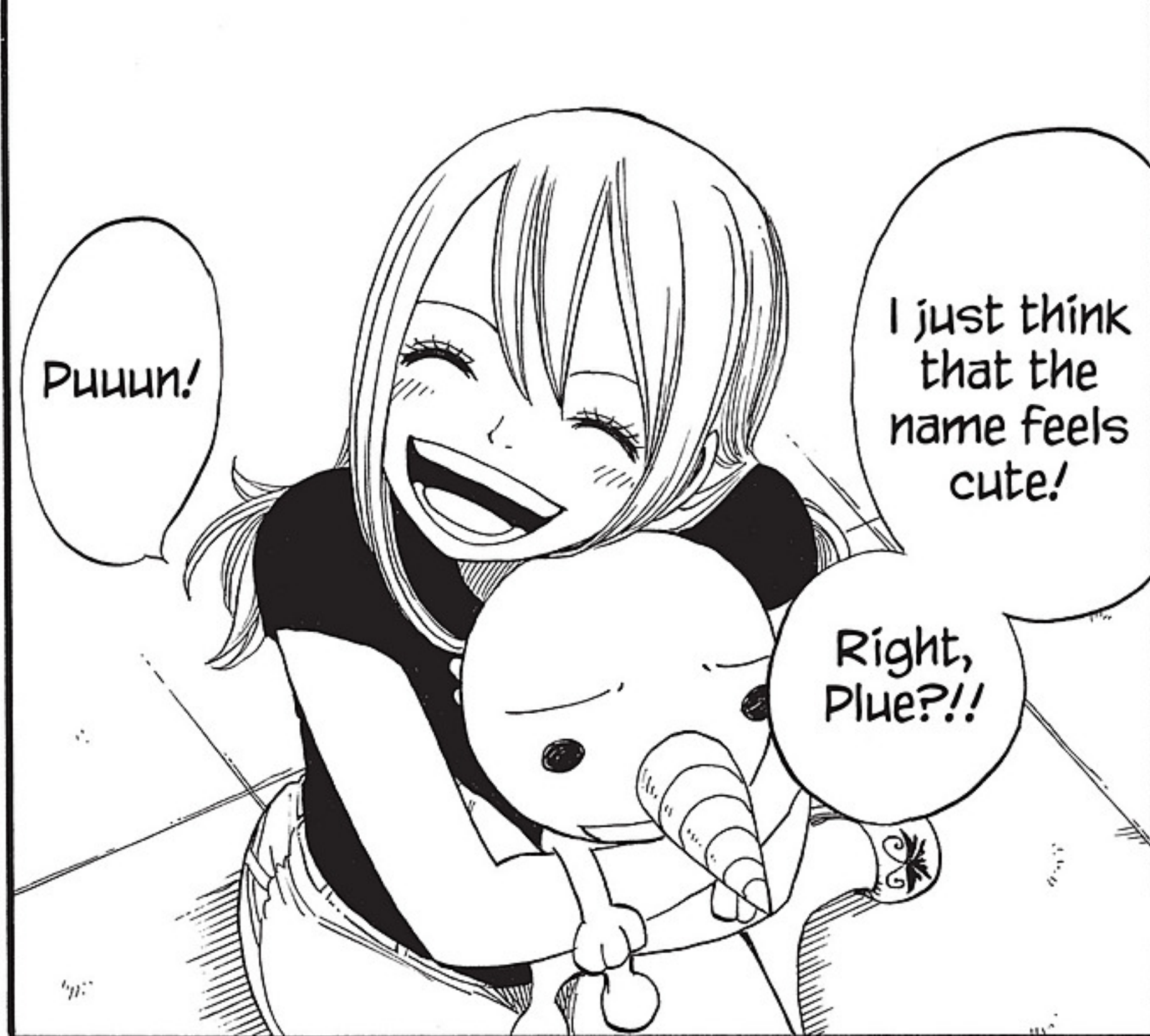


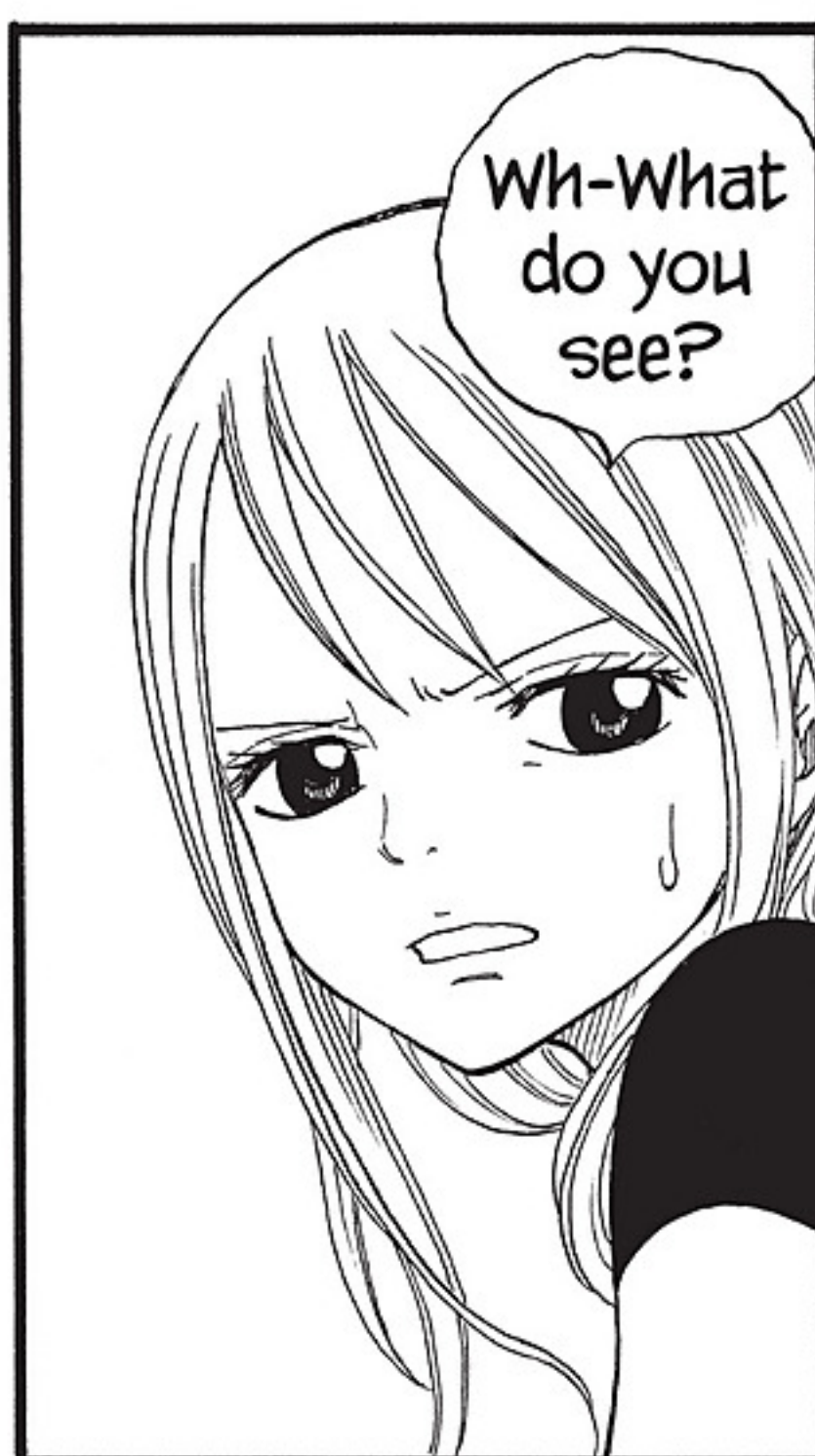




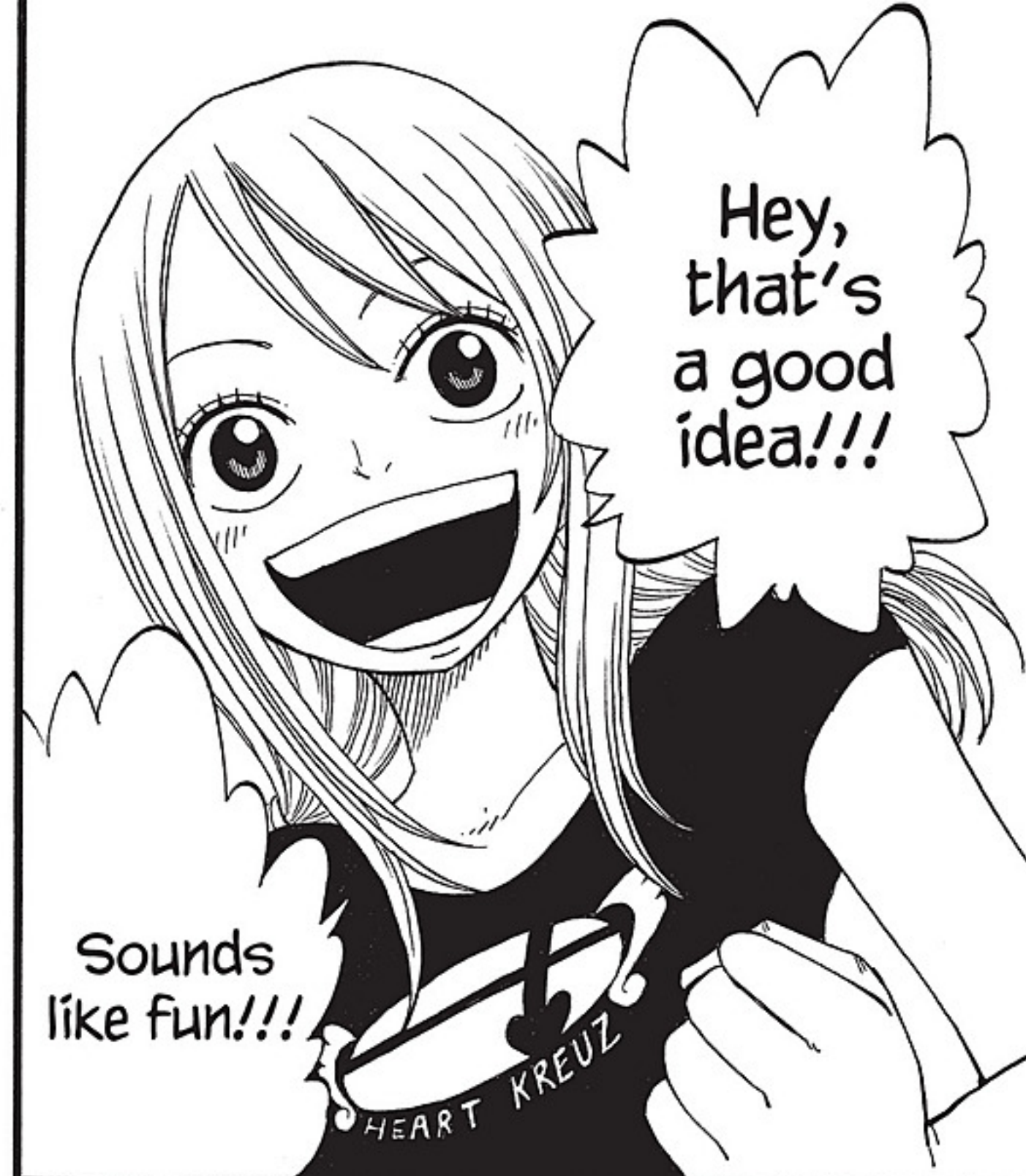
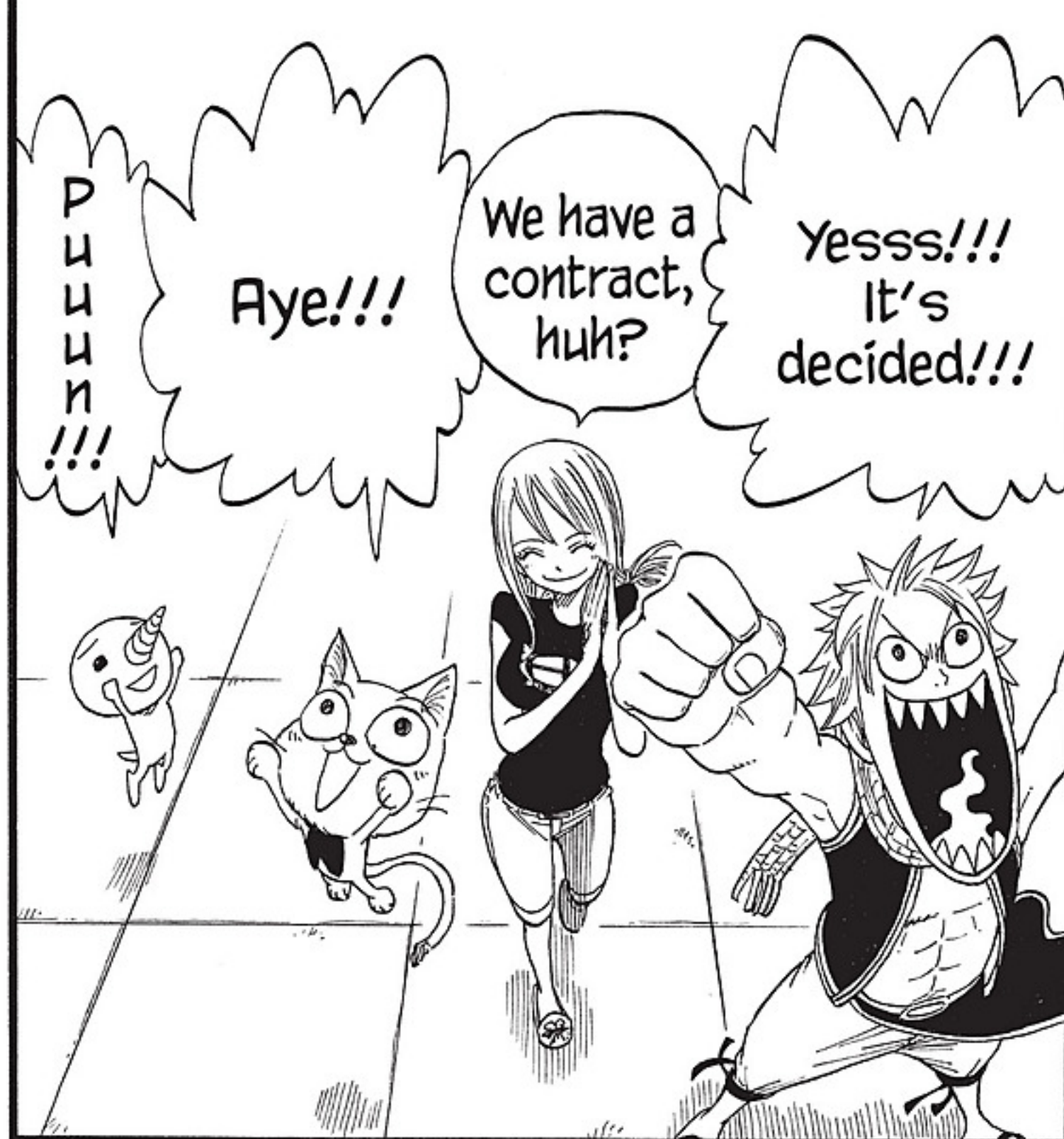


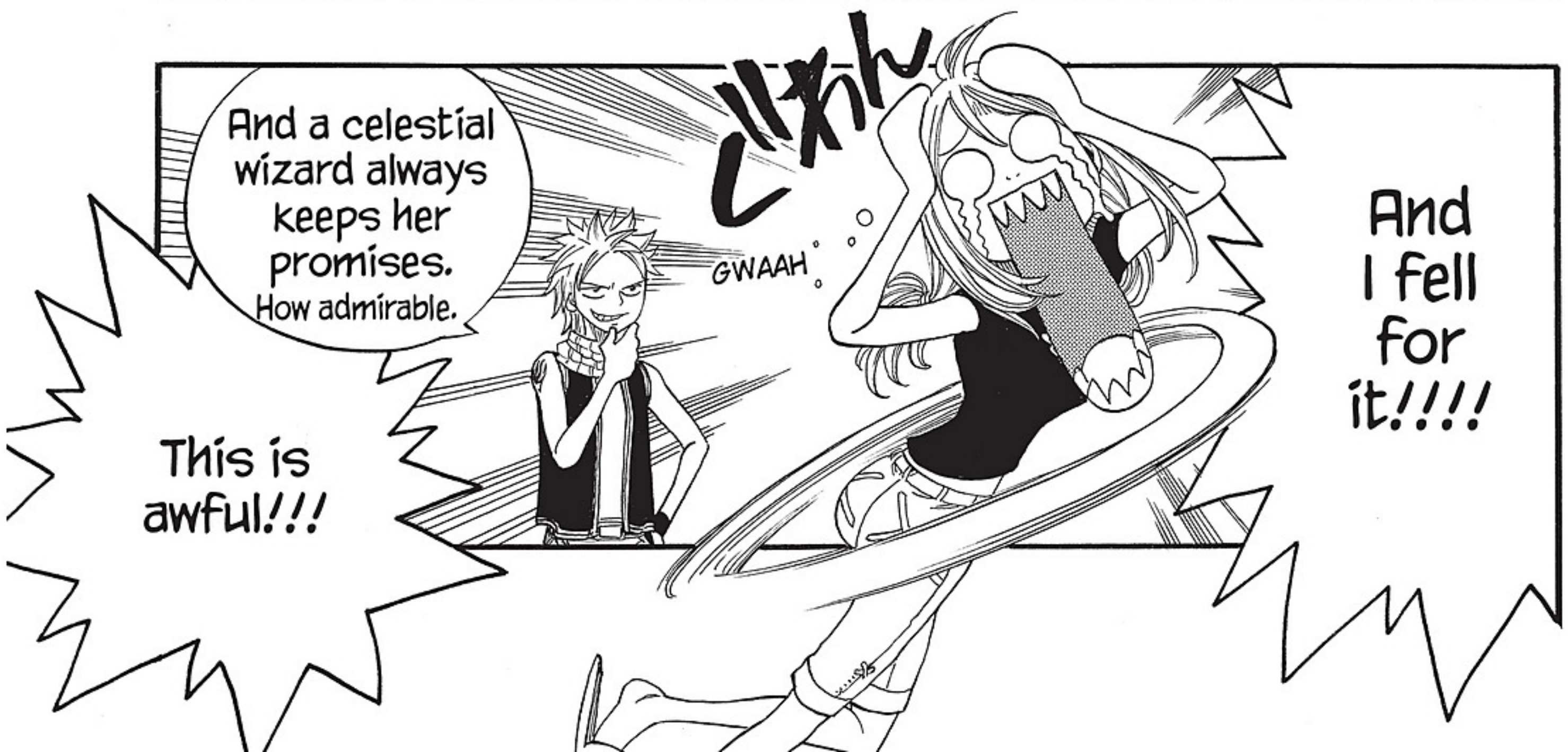
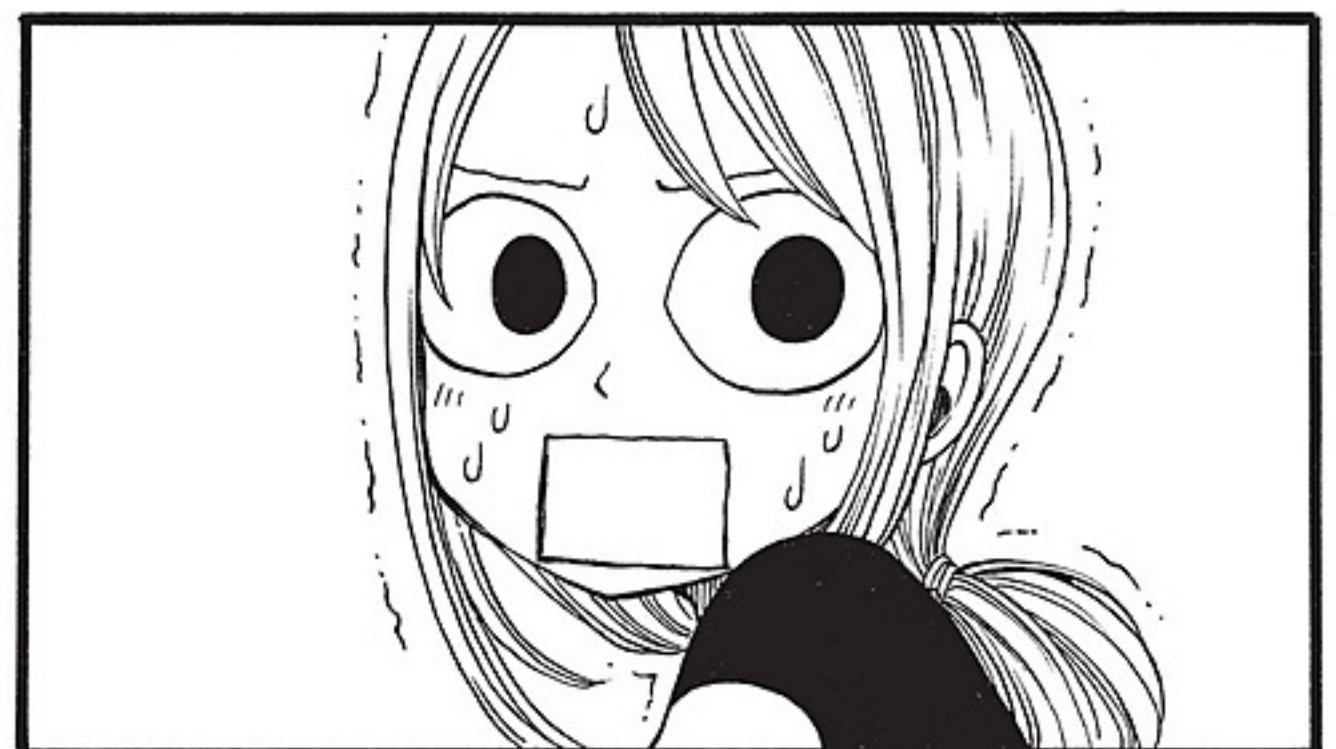
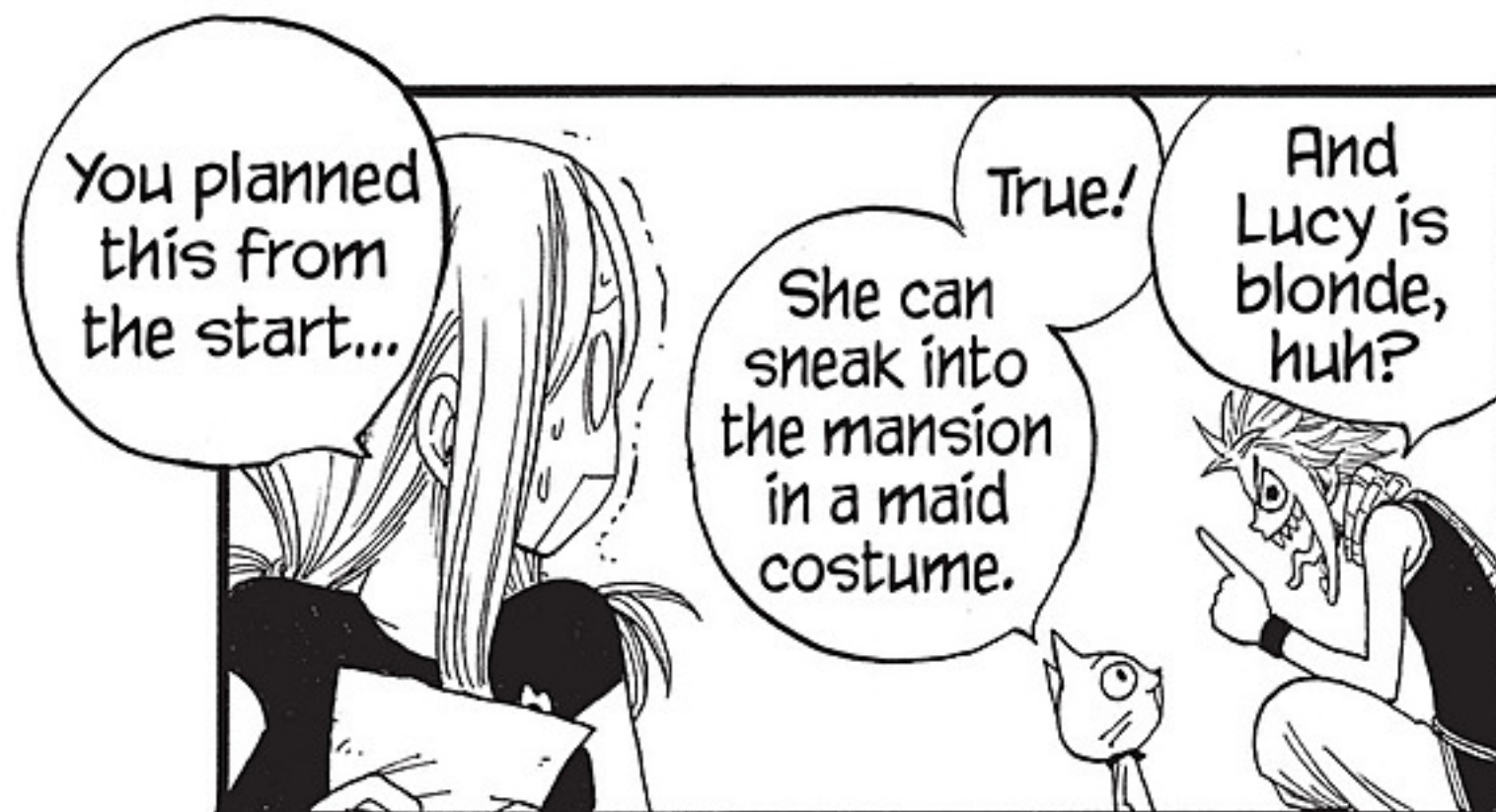
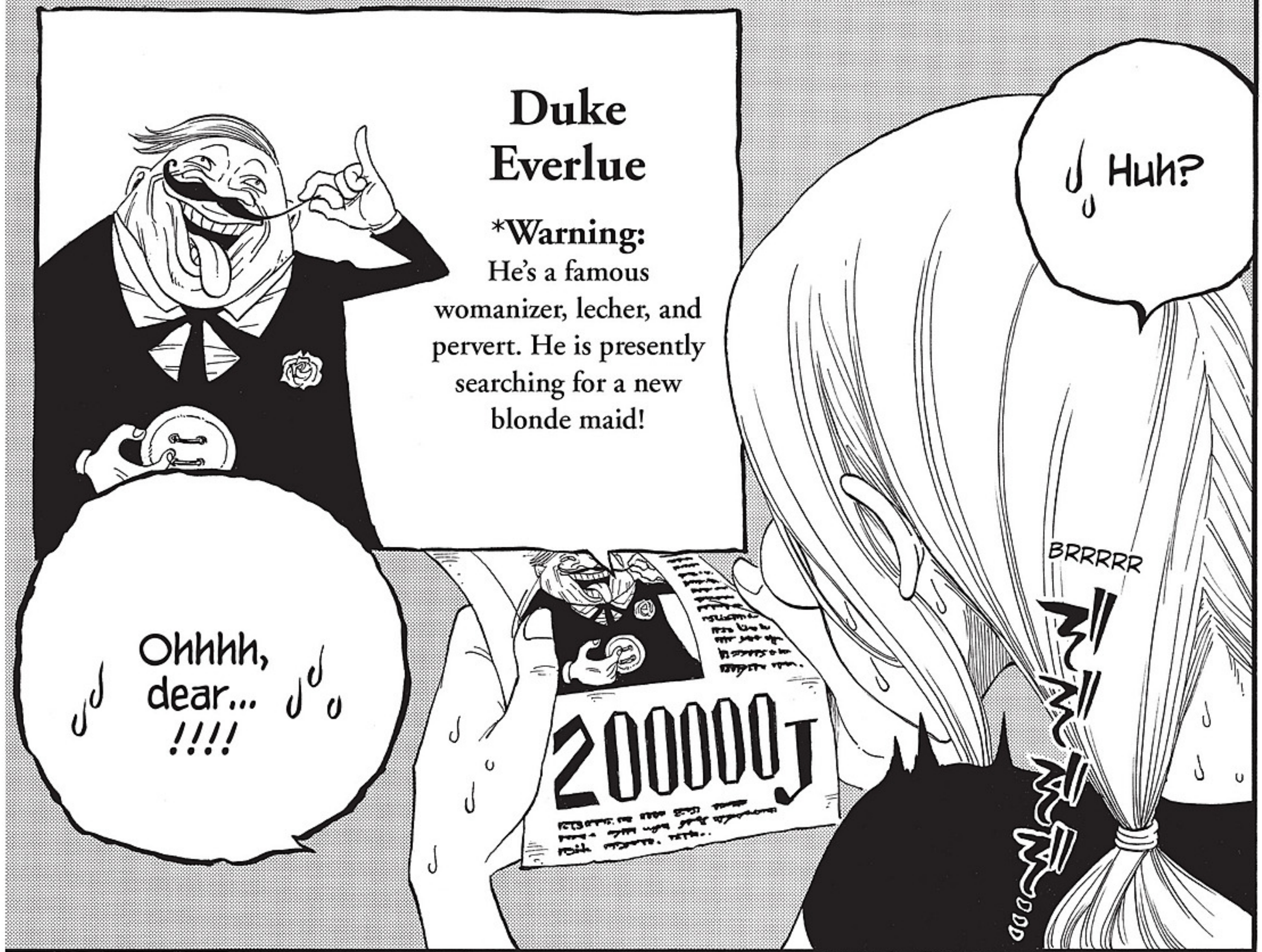


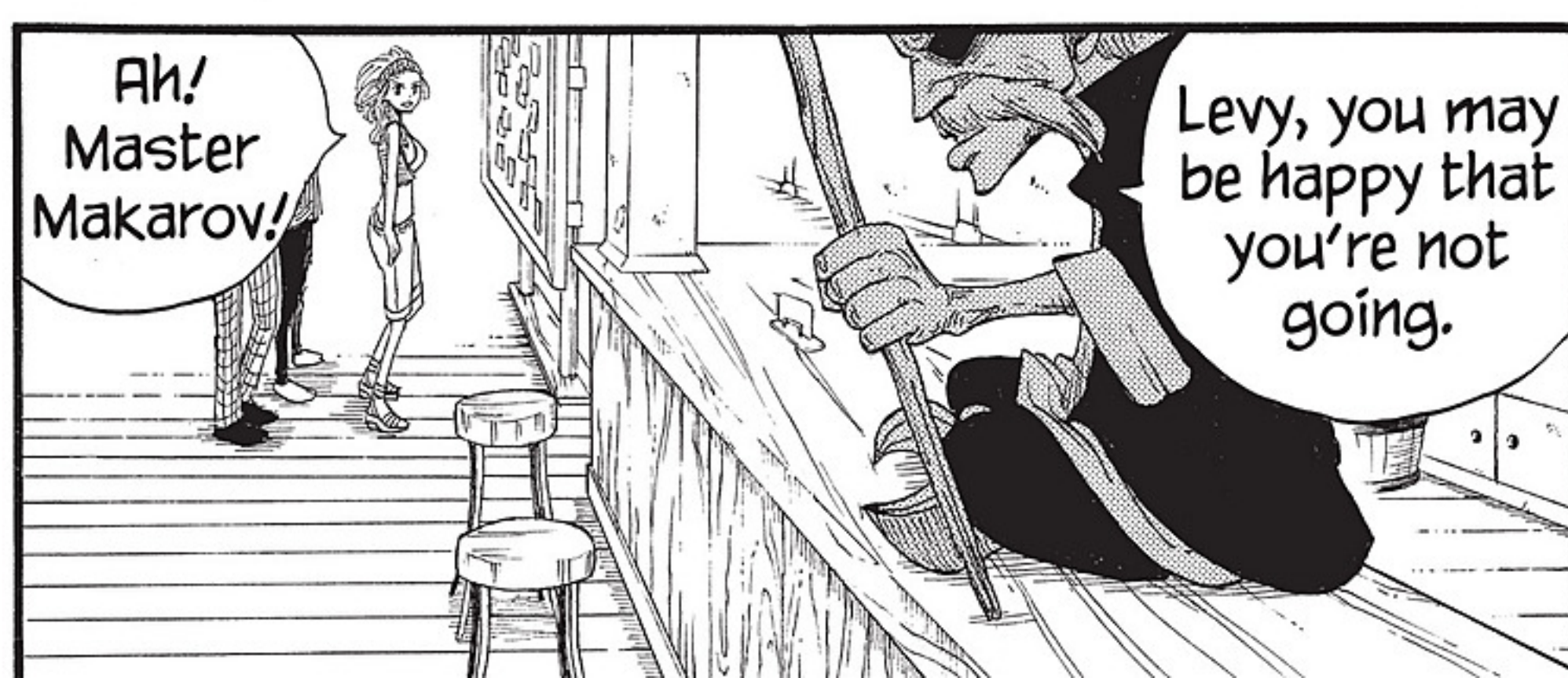
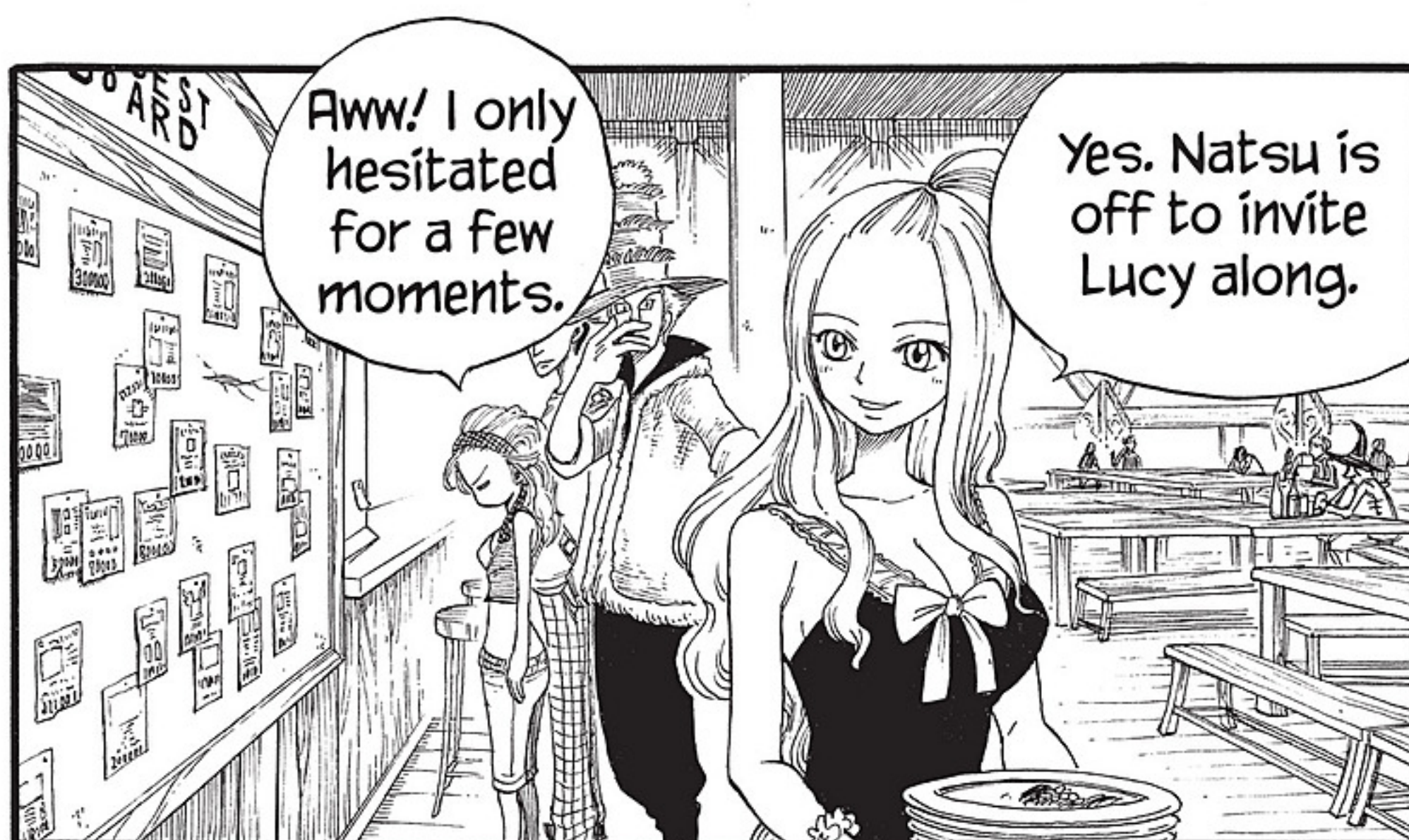


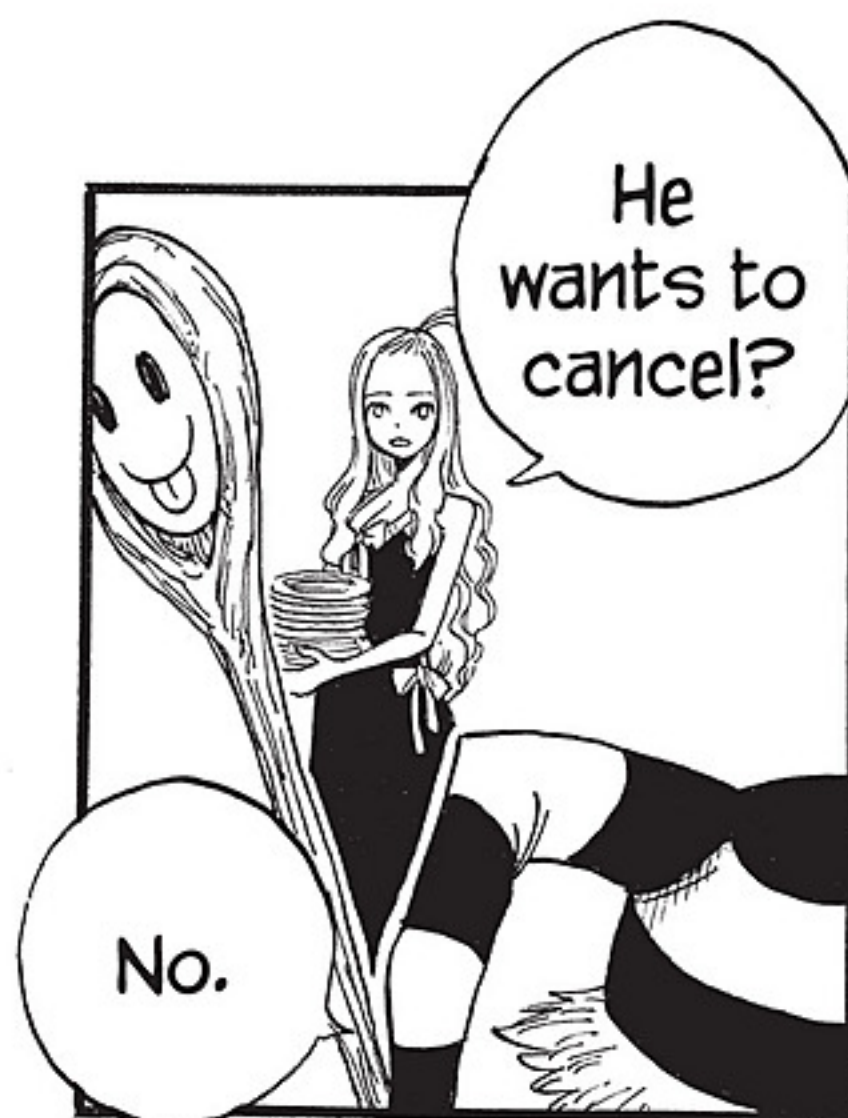






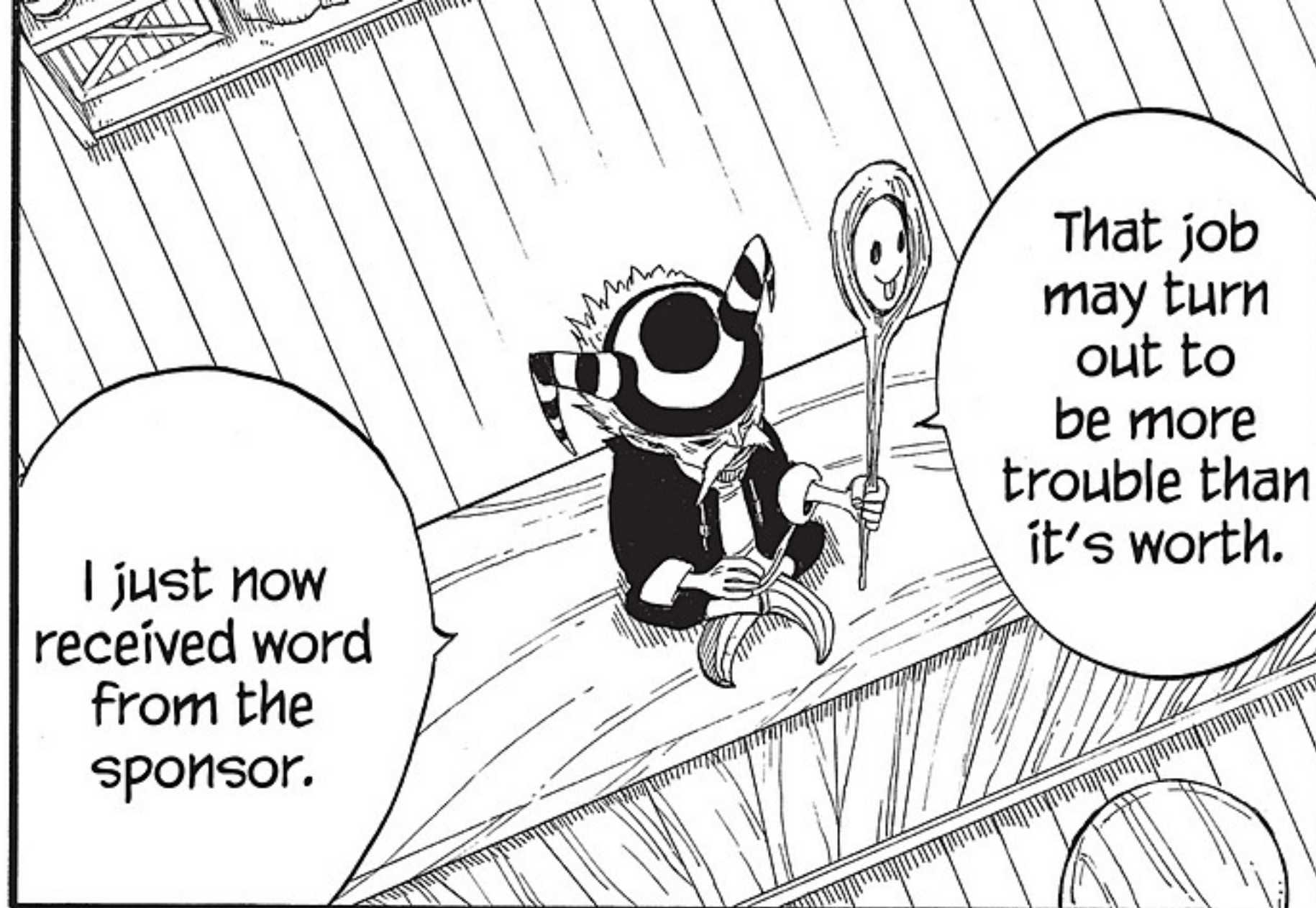






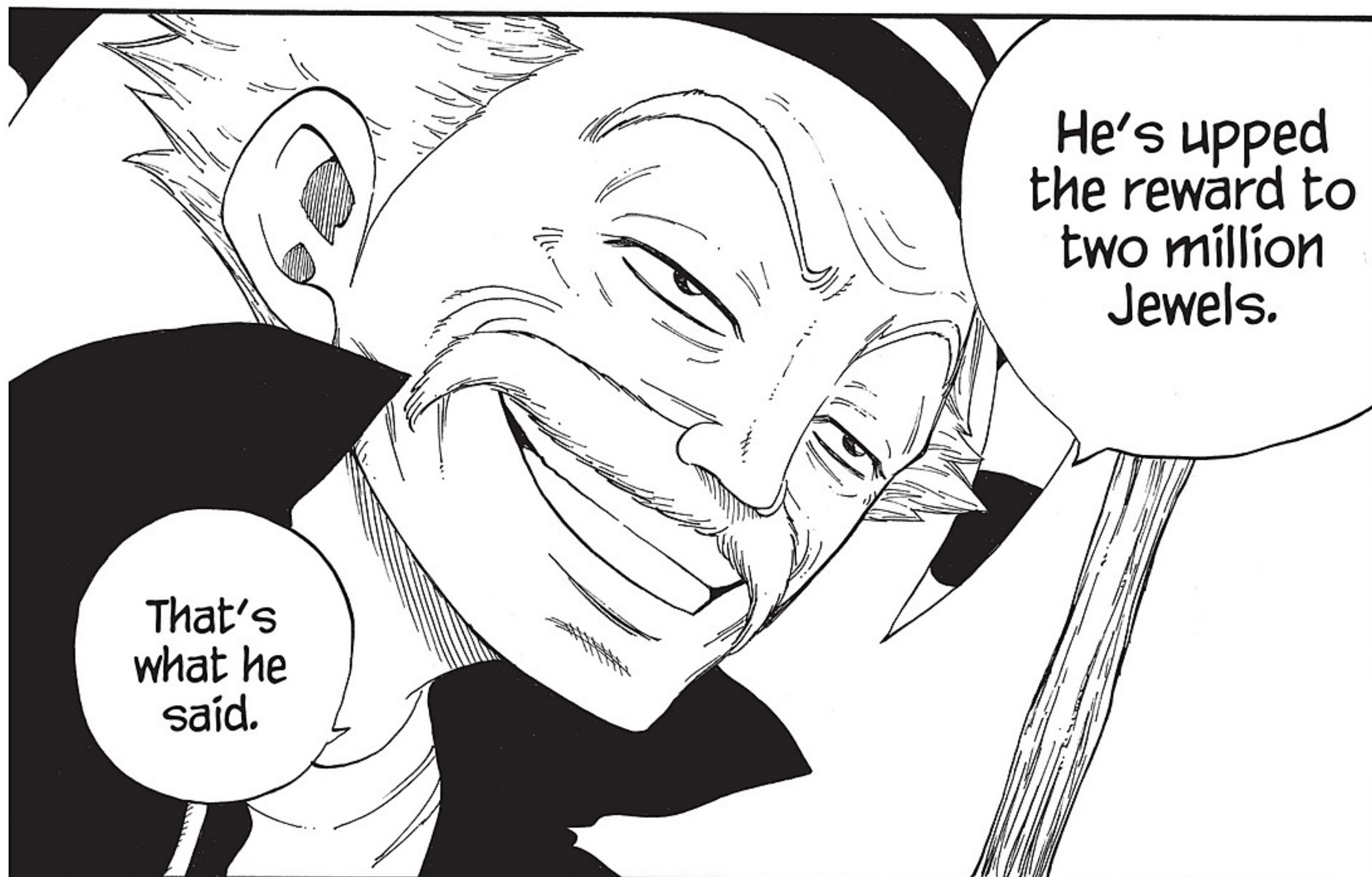
He wants to cancel?

No.



I just now received word from the sponsor.

That job may turn out to be more trouble than it's worth.



He's upped the reward to two million Jewels.

That's what he said.

CHATTER!!
CHATTER!!

What's going on with that?!!

That's the kind of reward they give for military action!!

Tsk!! We just passed up a great-sounding job!!

CHATTER

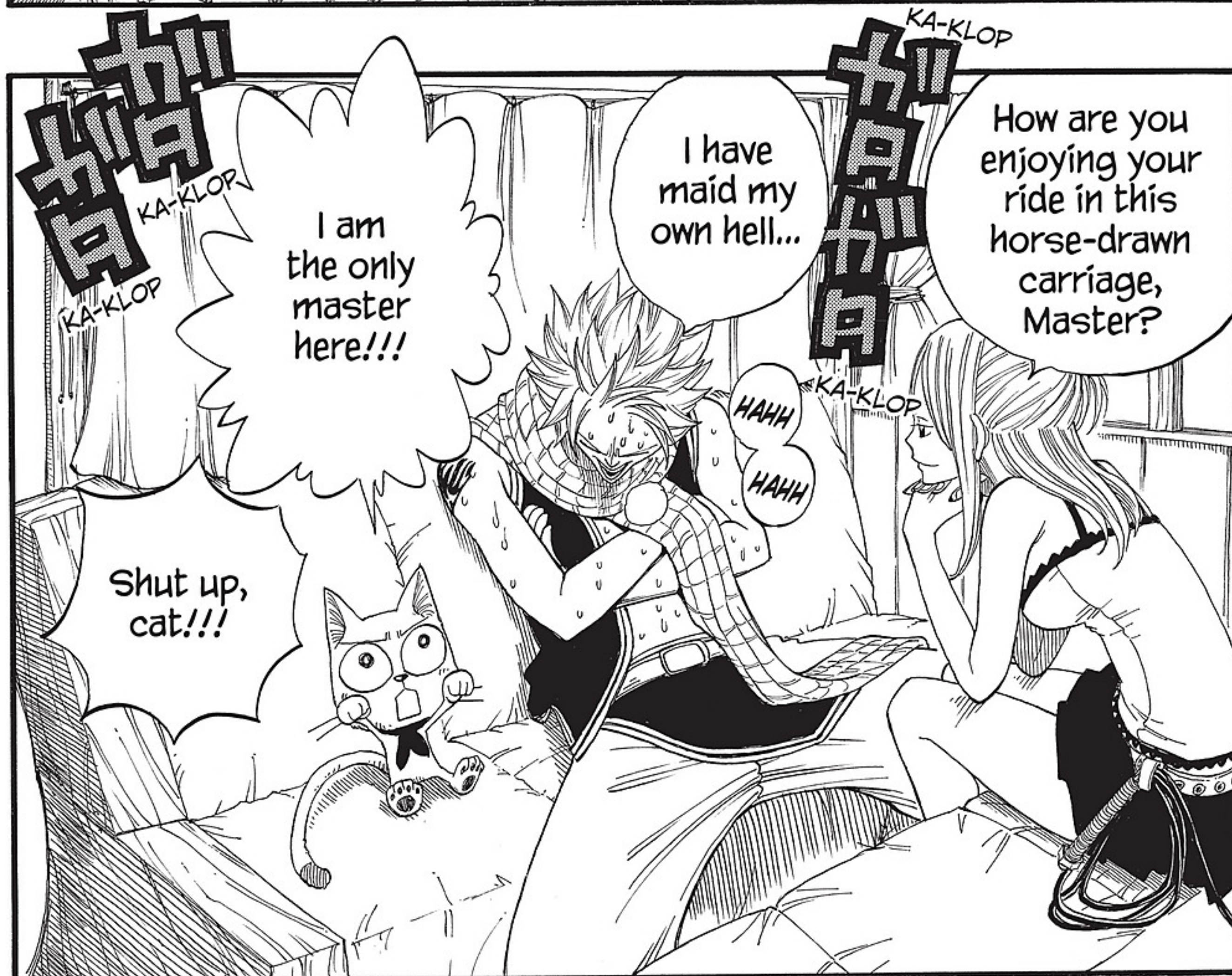
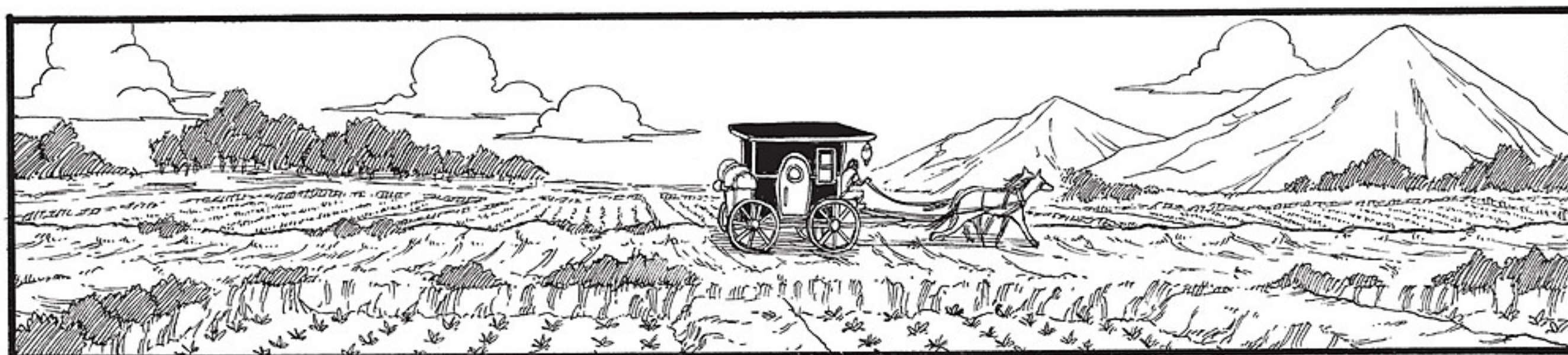
Wh-Why would he do that all of a sudden?

CHATTER!!

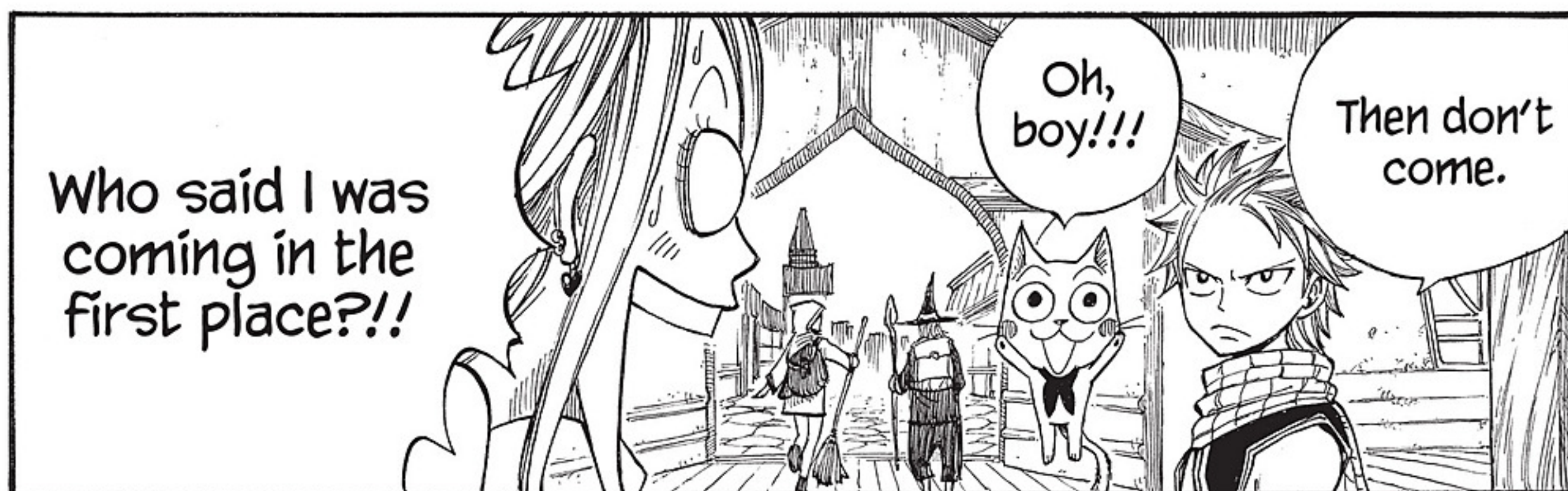
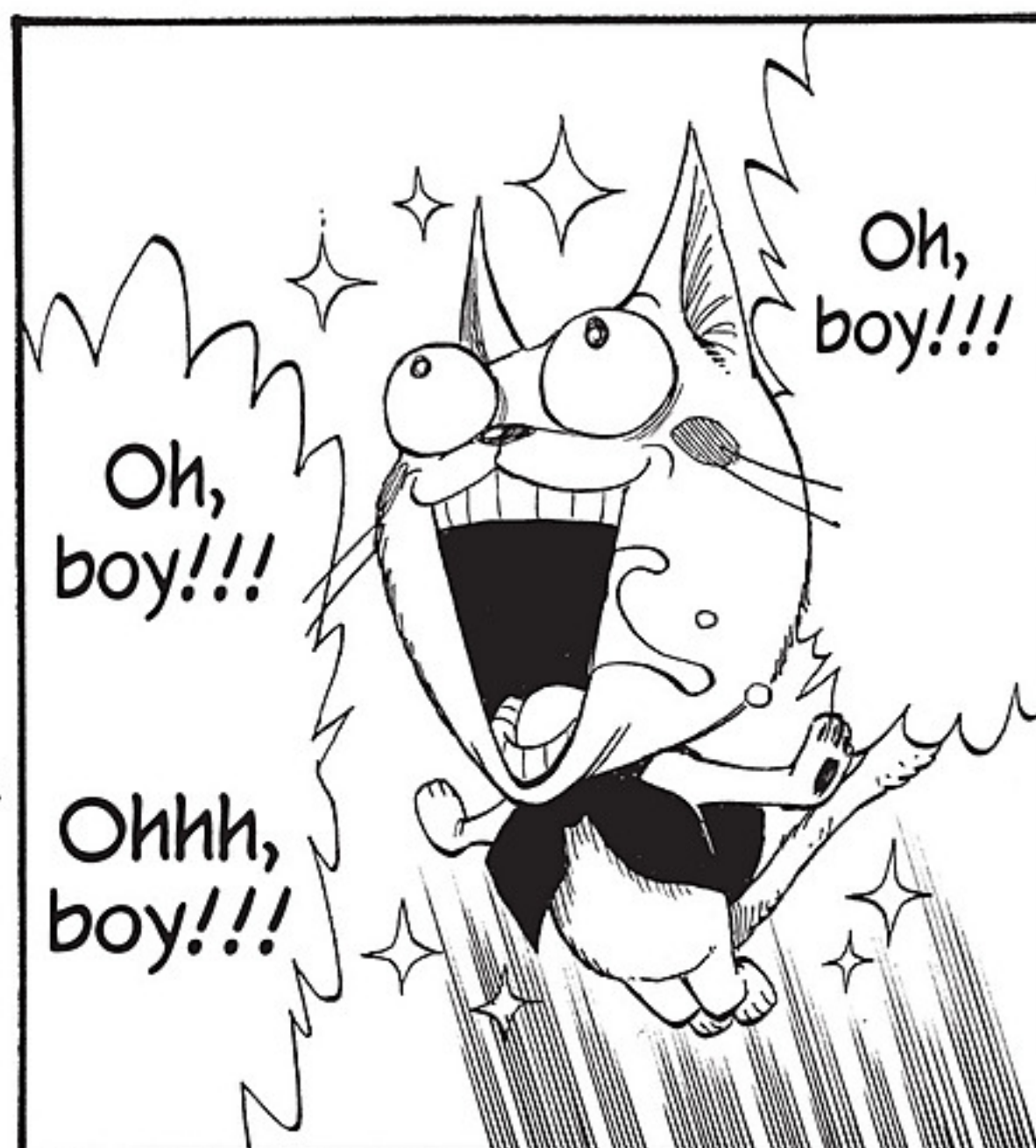
CHATTER

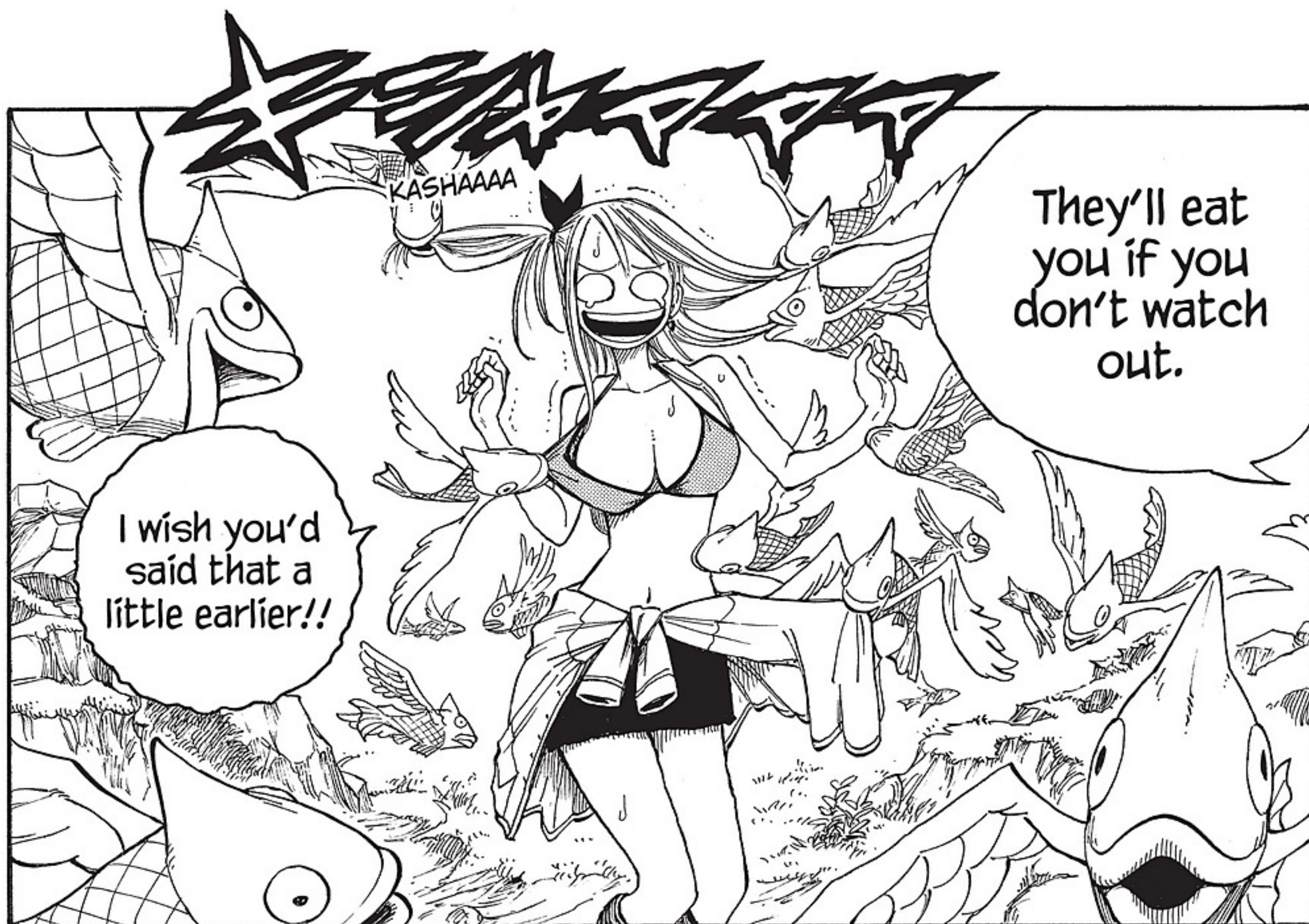
Ten times the amount?!!

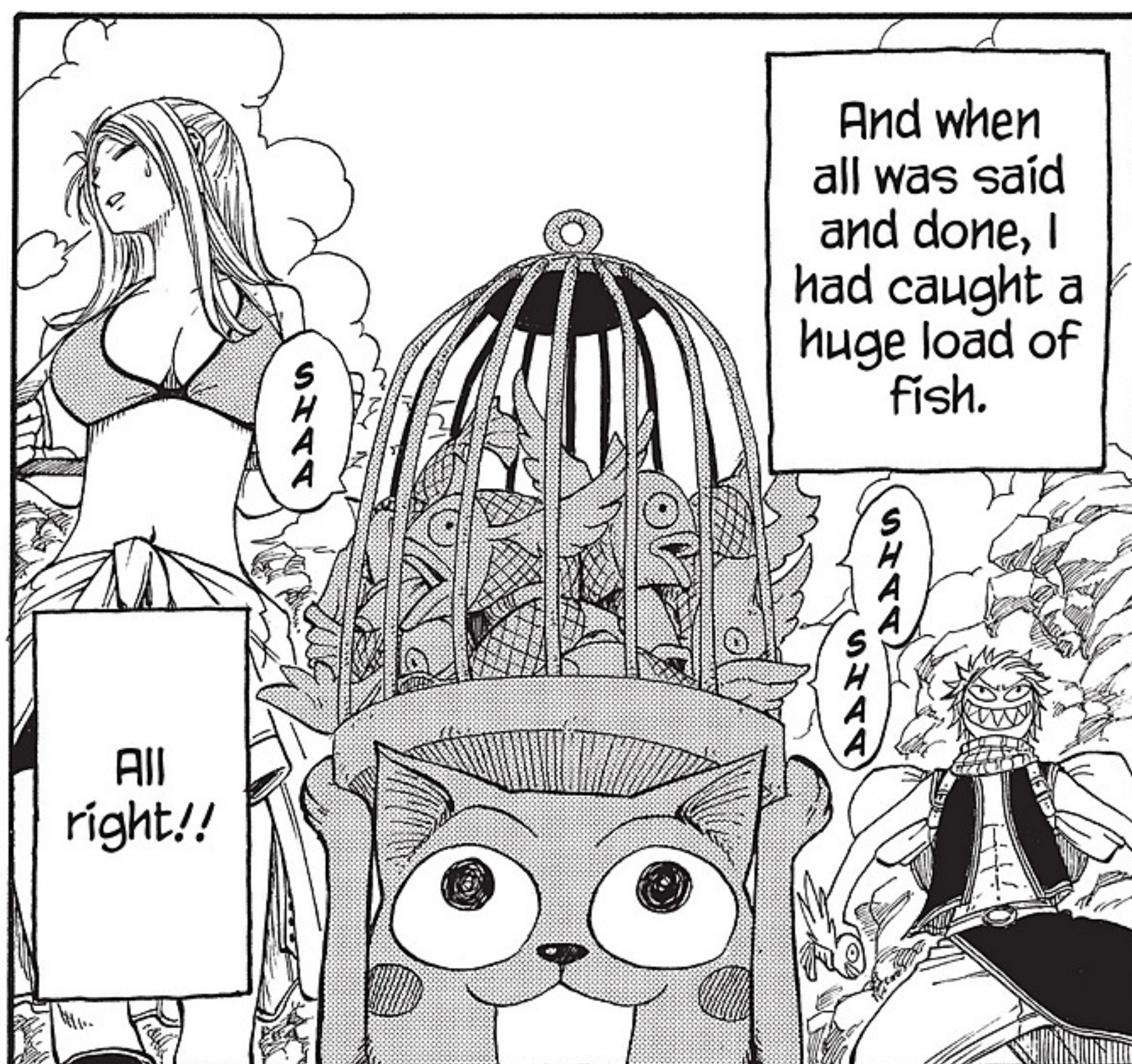
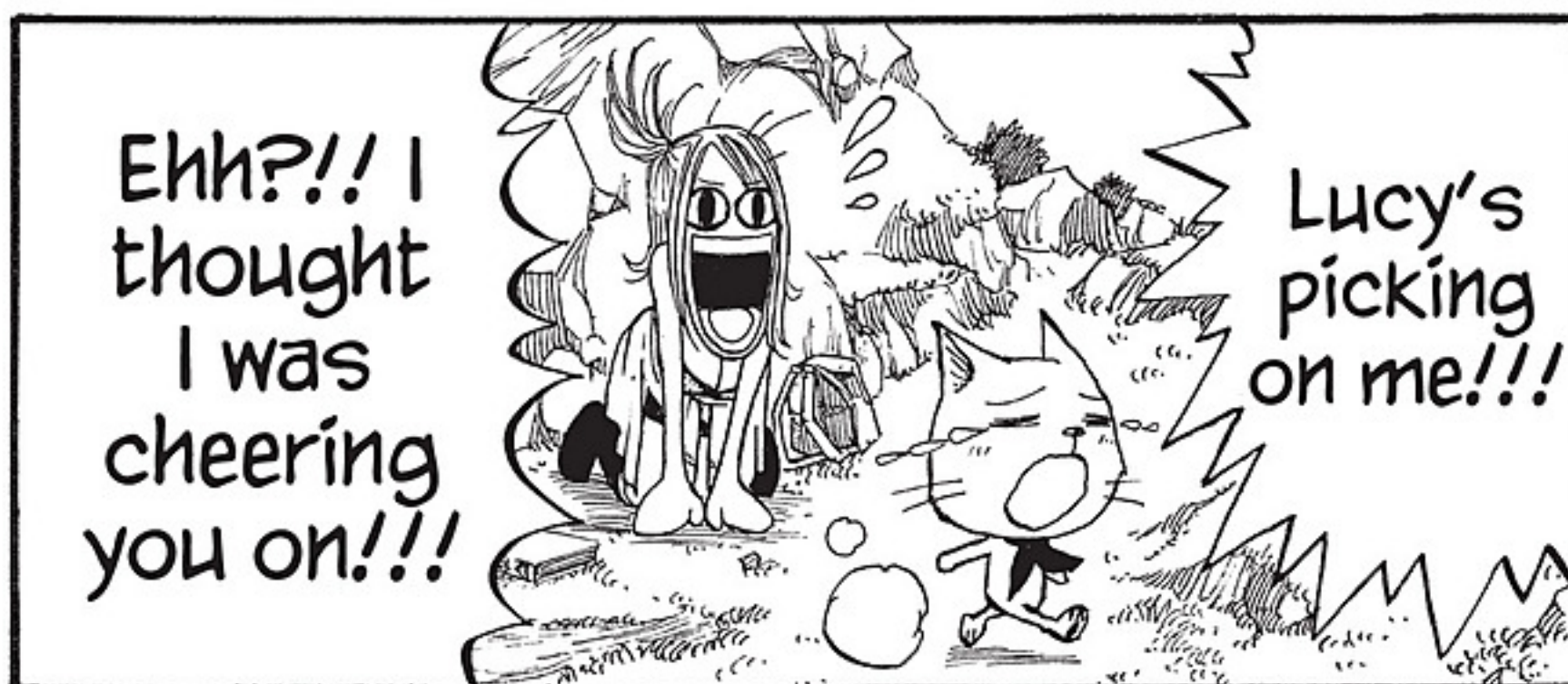
Two million just for one book?!!

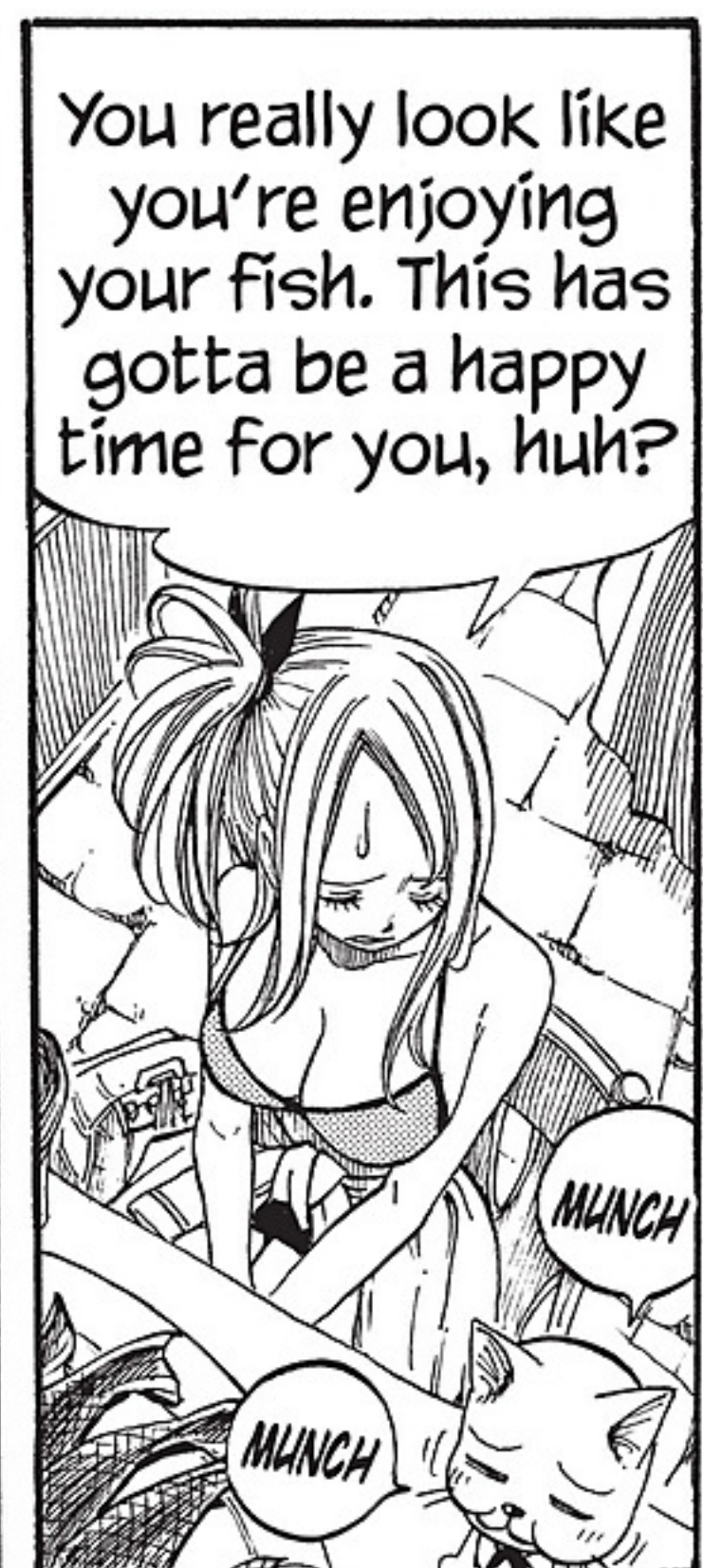
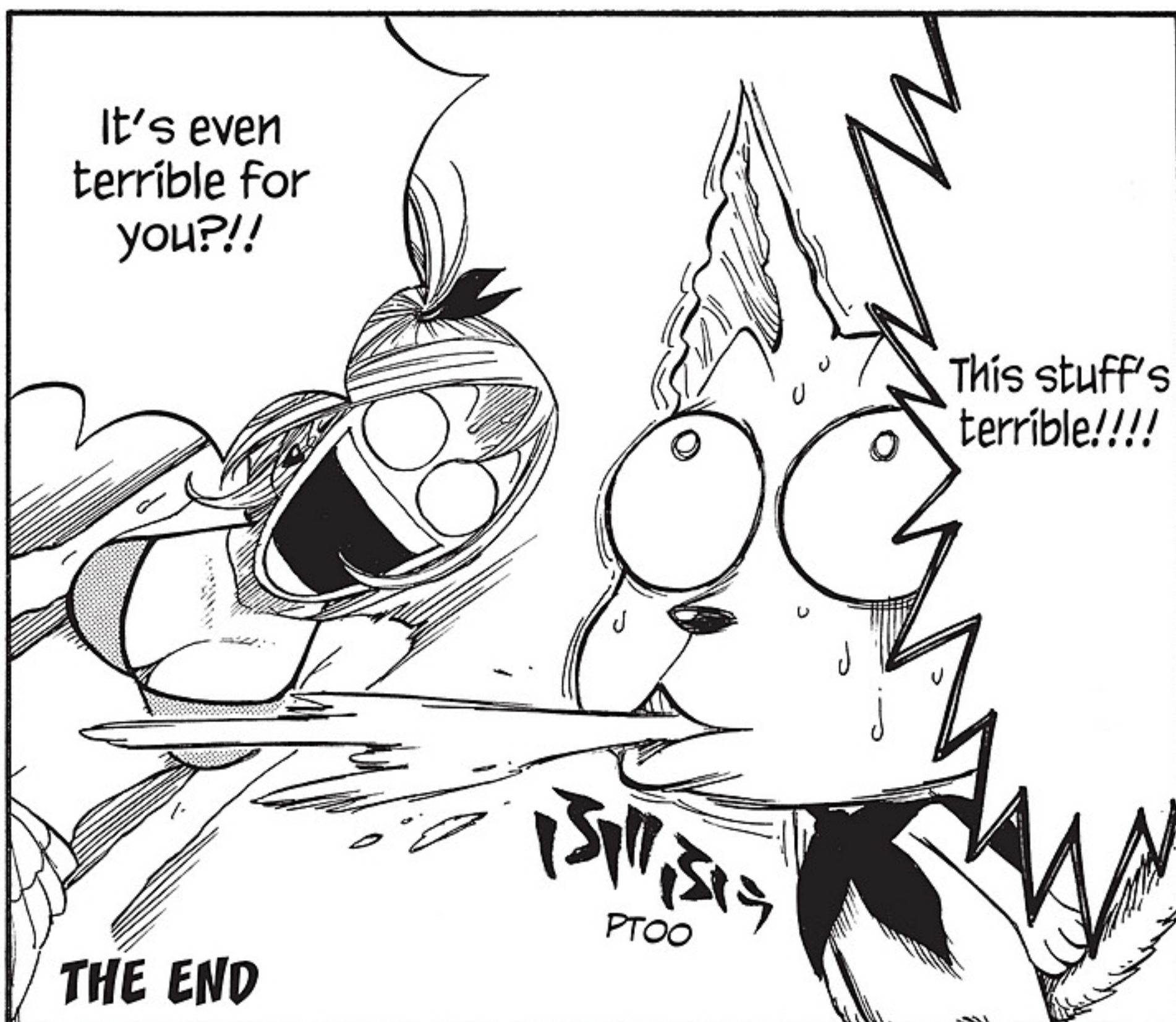
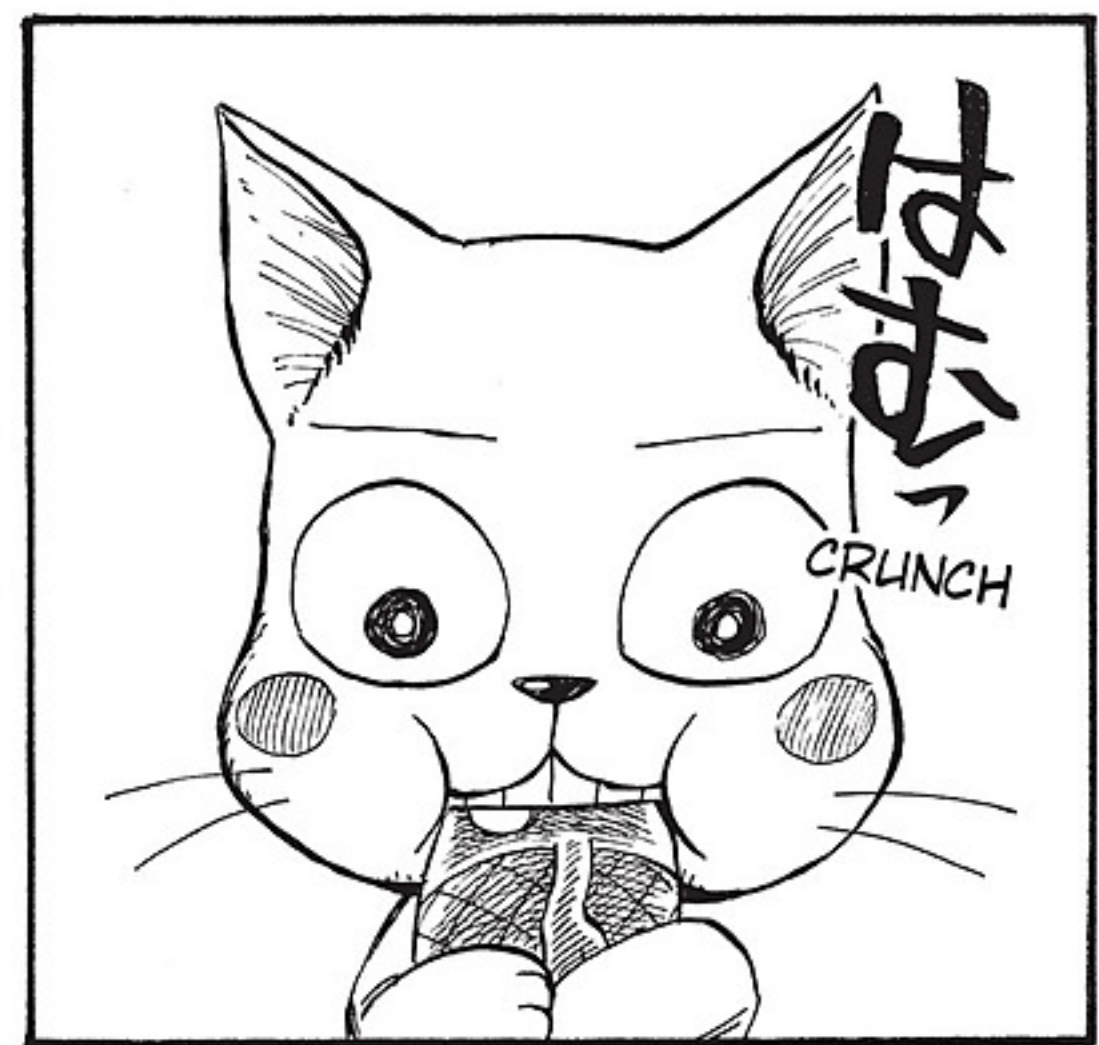
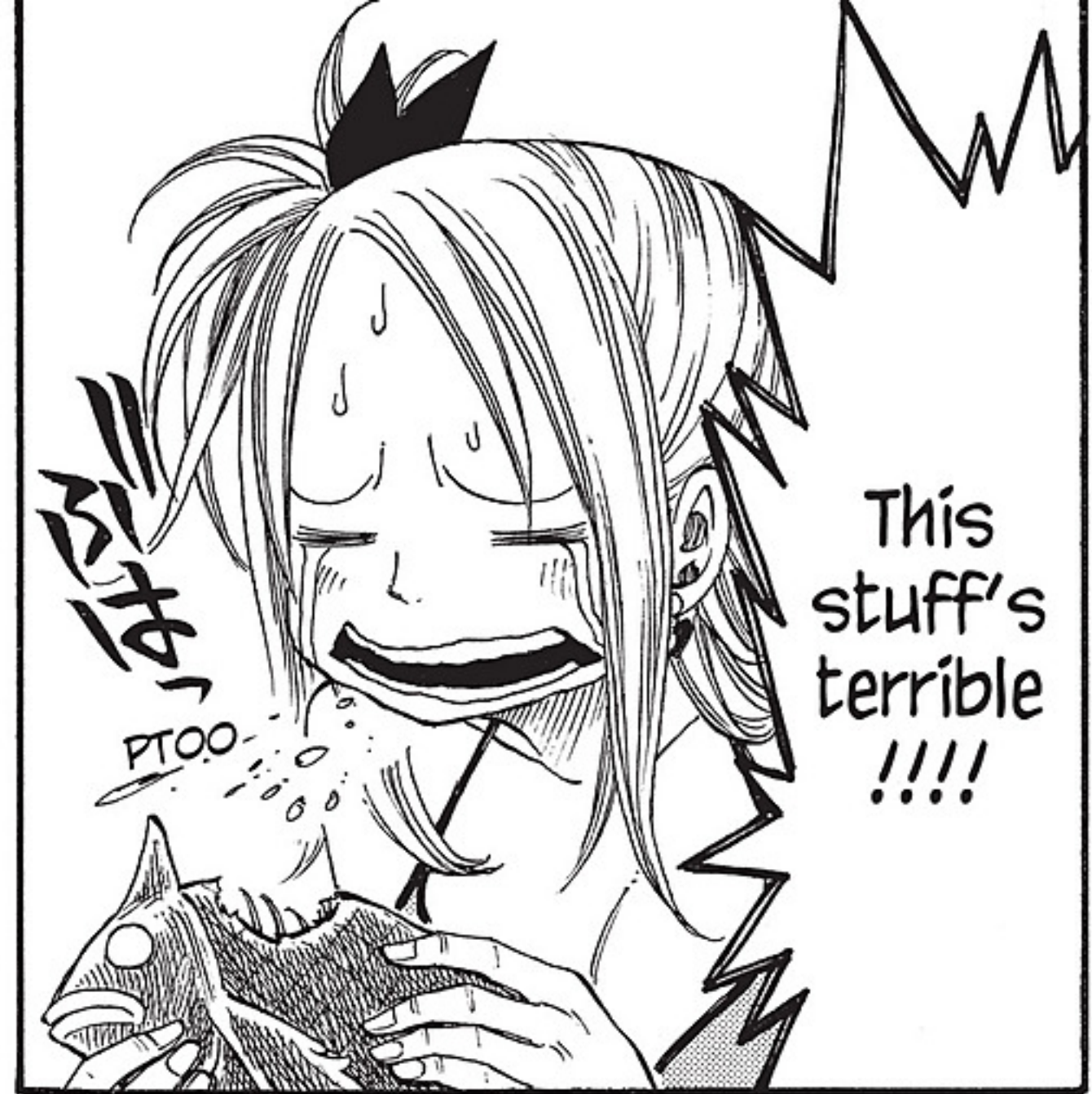
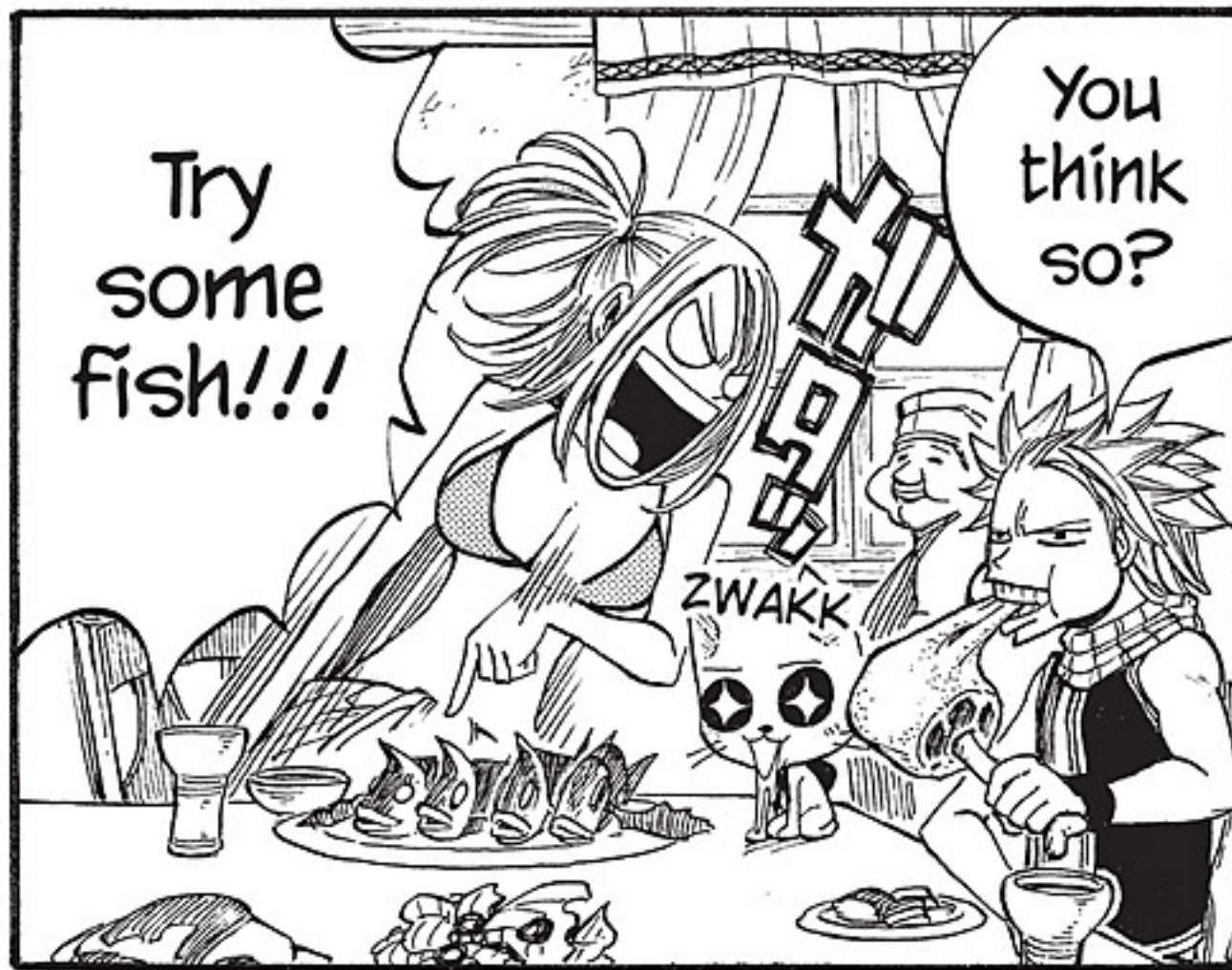


TO BE CONTINUED









Natsu's Design...

Huh?
He had horns?

This is what the main character for the short-story version of *Fairy Tail* (actually, it's *Fairy Tale*) looks like. In the short-story version, he was a spirit, but this time he's human, and he's lost the horns.



()



Nice to meet you! Or, long time no see! I'm the author, Mashima. First, let me say thank you for reading the first volume of *Fairy Tail*. Did you enjoy it? I'm planning on making things more and more interesting as we go along, so please join me for the ride.

In this portion of the book, I'm thinking that I'll use the space to talk a little about the behind-the-scenes parts of the manga, recent events in my life, weird things about my editor, or just silly stuff that means nothing. So read it when you have some free time.

For the first volume, I'll tell you the behind-the-scenes story of how *Fairy Tail* was born. Well, it really isn't all that "behind-the-scenes," but... At the very start, it was a story about a guild of couriers and how the fire-using main character, Natsu, carried various things on all kinds of assignments. Even though he's a courier, he gets motion sickness very easily. Natsu of *Fairy Tail* had his motion sickness as a part of his design from the start. The story of how he went from courier to wizard is like this: I pondered how to make the story about a man with a dream. I had the first story about the courier guild pretty much finished, but I became more and more intrigued. And when I came up with the wizard guild idea, and how all sorts of wizards could be gathered in one place, I had pretty much decided to change it to a story about wizards. I can't explain just how excited I was with the thought. One idea after another kept popping into my head. I practically forced my editor to allow me to do it, and I started over from scratch. That's how *Fairy Tail* was born. By the way, the title isn't supposed to be a once-upon-a-time story. It means the tail of a fairy. That may prove to be a pivotal point, but it may not. Well, who cares, really? [laughs]

So, from here on, I'm going to do my best to write an interesting story. We'll fly from one thing to the next. (What the hell is that supposed to mean?!!) So expect magic! Let's meet again in volume 2!

About the Creator

HIRO MASHIMA was born May 3, 1977, in Nagano prefecture. His series *Rave Master* has made him one of the most popular manga artists in America. *Fairy Tail*, currently being serialized in *Weekly Shonen Magazine*, is his latest creation.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

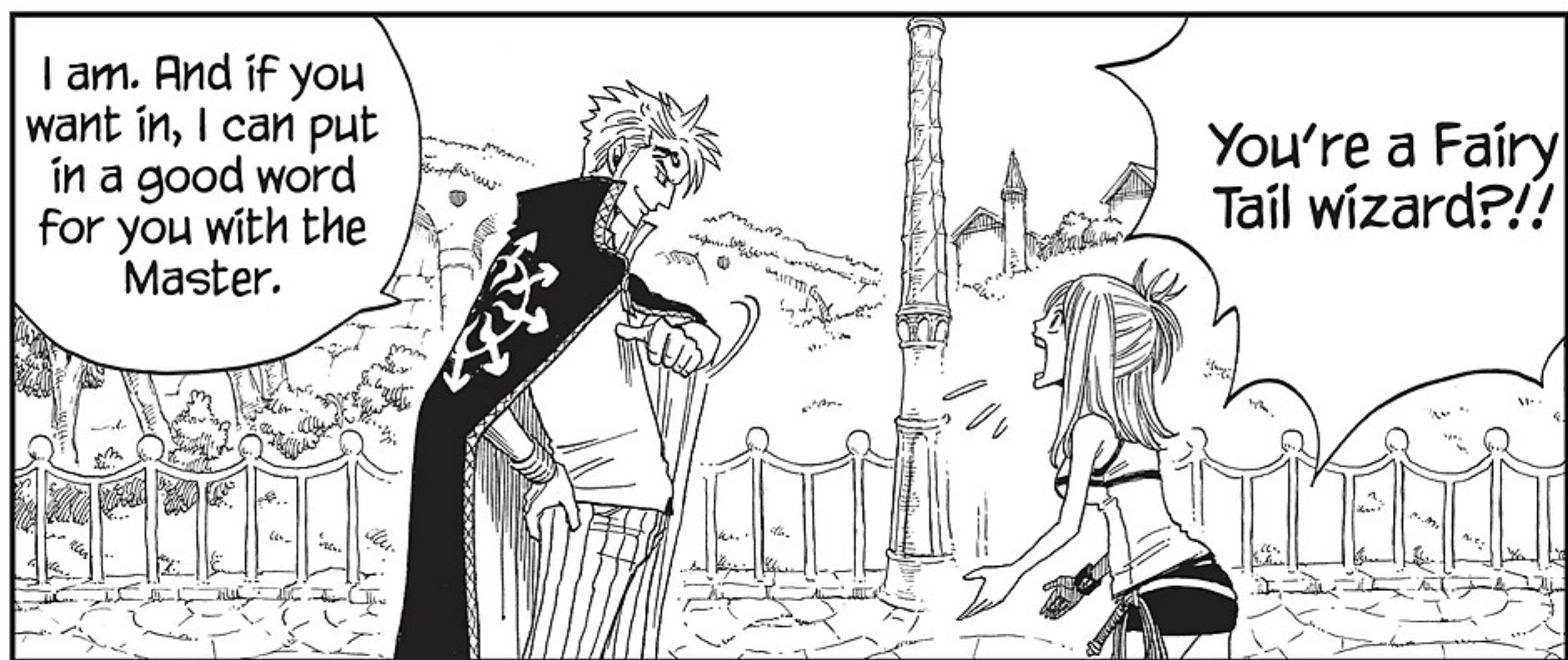
General Note: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translates the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as *judo* ("the soft way") and *kendo* ("the way of the sword"). *Madô* is "the way of magic," and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Jewels and calculating money, page 12

In fantasy tales, no small part of the story's unique magical world is that world's imaginary currency. In America, fantasy writers tend to depend on their readers' familiarity with American money, attaching a phrase like "silver pieces" to an amount that would be wholly plausible in U.S. dollars. In Japan, the same convention is used, except that the imaginary currency is a substitute for yen. So, in *Fairy Tail*, merchants quote sums like 20,000 Jewels that sound ridiculously huge to American readers but are fairly reasonable to the Japanese. A rough-but-quick currency conversion is 100 yen to the dollar, so when Lucy is told that the White Doggy key is 20,000 J, that would be roughly equivalent to ¥20,000 in Japanese money, or about \$200 U.S. Keeping the amounts so close to the yen/dollar amounts that readers already know makes it easy for them to understand how expensive things are in the fantasy world.





Master, page 32

"Master" is an English loan word that the Japanese have added to their language, but like many loan words, "master" has acquired an entirely different meaning than its English one. In Japan, the owner or manager of a bar or other similar establishment is called the master of the business. The nuances of the word "master" as we know it—that it implies advanced knowledge or skill—have disappeared in its Japanese usage, nor does it imply the "slave owner" definition. It is simply what one calls the person who runs a business.



Thanks for the meal, page 64

This is a rough translation of a ritualistic Japanese phrase. This phrase, *Gochisô-sama*, is said at the end of every meal. It literally means "It was a feast," and it is usually said to the person who cooked the meal or the one who provided it (for example, the person who pays the bill at a restaurant). So ingrained is this habit that one often says it to oneself even after finishing eating a self-prepared meal alone.



What's all this, then? page 77

Yes, this is an old, worn-out cliché that British police are famous for saying when arriving at a crime scene (although I doubt that all that many of them actually use it these days). But it is, in fact, a pretty accurate translation of what was said in Japanese.

Nekomander, page 112

This is a joking play on the name of the villain. The Japanese version used the English word "salamander" as the name of the villain. The Japanese word for cat is *neko*. As translator, I suppose I could have used the translation "catmander" or "kittymander" for Happy's dialogue, but the Japanese word that Happy used, *nekomander*, just had a nice ring to it.



"Forms," page 171

In the original, Lucy is actually explaining how to count celestial spirits. English sometimes uses special counter words for some items. For example, when saying how much paper one has, one counts by pieces or sheets. When saying how many cows one has, one counts by heads of cattle. This is a matter of custom and established usage. The same is true for Japanese, but on a much wider scale. Nearly everything has a special counter word. In the previous panel, Happy asks how many spirits Lucy has, but he asks using the same counter that is used for counting people. So Lucy corrects Happy by telling him they're counted with the counter *tai* (which uses the kanji that means "body"). Although, because they are spirits, "body" is not the most appropriate translation; the somewhat synonymous word "form" can indicate both corporeal bodies and noncorporeal manifestations. It isn't a perfect translation, since English doesn't allow for Happy to make his counter mistake without his dialogue sounding very awkward. But fortunately for the translator, it's in Lucy's character to explain a lot of things for no particular reason.

Nikor, page 172

The constellation Taurus is called Taurus, and the constellation Aquarius is called Aquarius, so why is Canis Minor called Nikora? I have to admit that I don't know. The



famous astronomer Nicolas Louis de Lacaille discovered and coined the names to many constellations, and the Japanese transliterate his first name as Nikora. But he did not name Canis Minor, and he seems to have no other relation to the constellation. If you readers know the answer, please write in to Kodansha and let us know.

Arrears, page 172

This was a pun. When translating a pun, one usually has to choose one of the two meanings to put into the translation (since it is rare that one word can contain the same two meanings in both languages). In this case, Happy asked if one must sign in blood (*ketsuban*), and Natsu misinterpreted the statement, saying that such a thing can hurt one's rear end (*ketsu*). As translator, I decided to take the low road by keeping the "rear end" meaning rather than the "blood contract" meaning. As it turns out, one does not have to sign in blood (nor does one ever come into arrears).

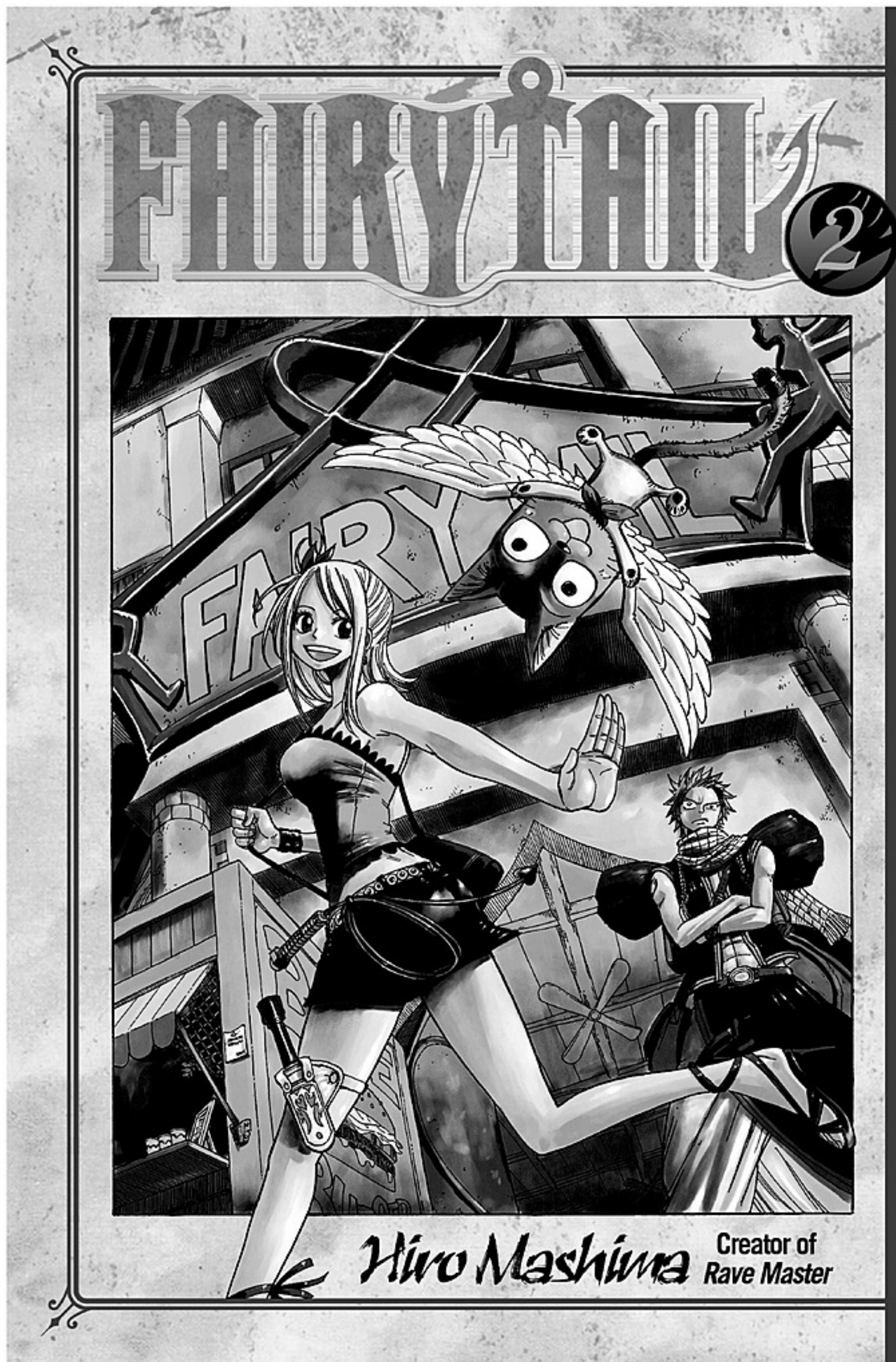


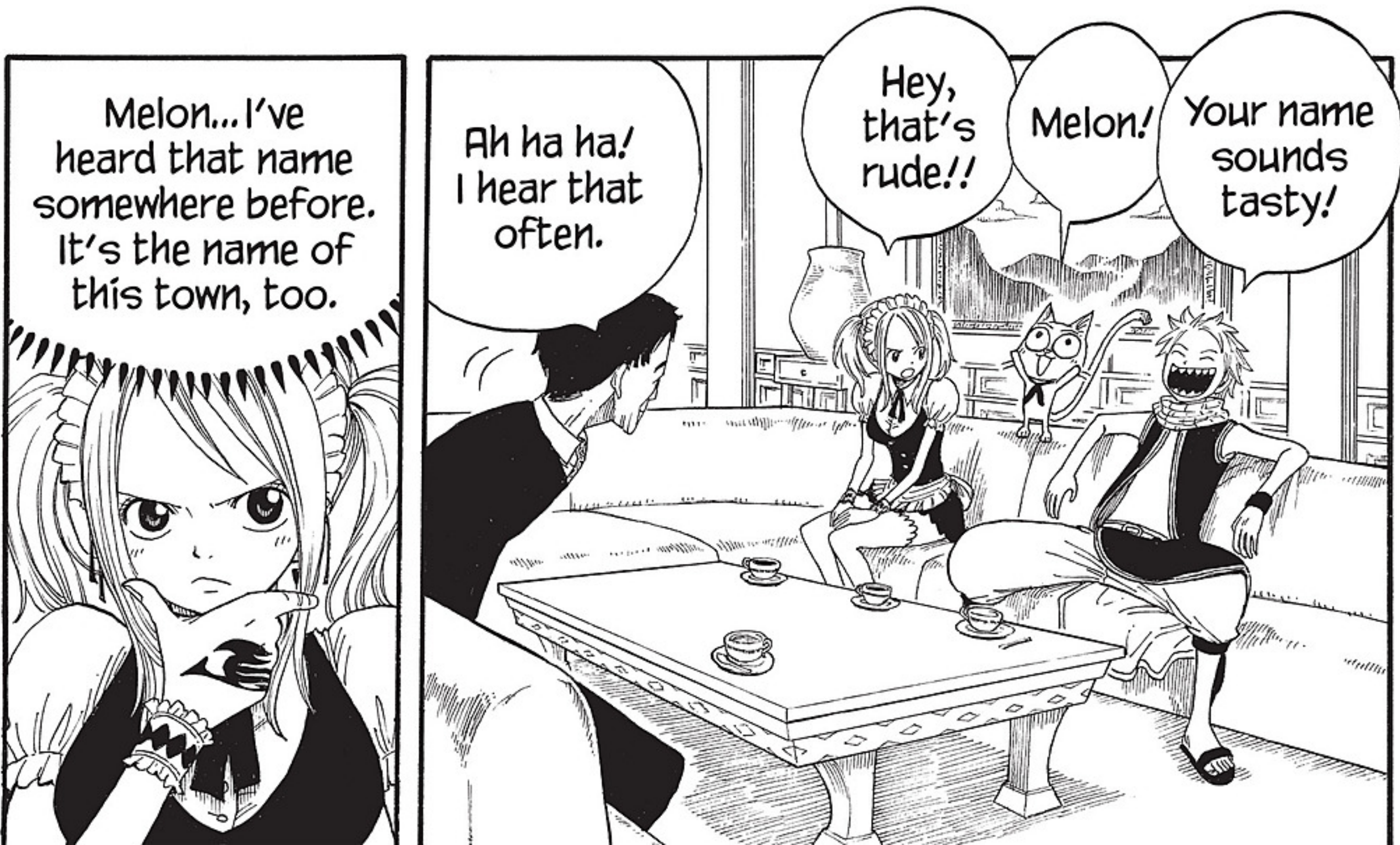
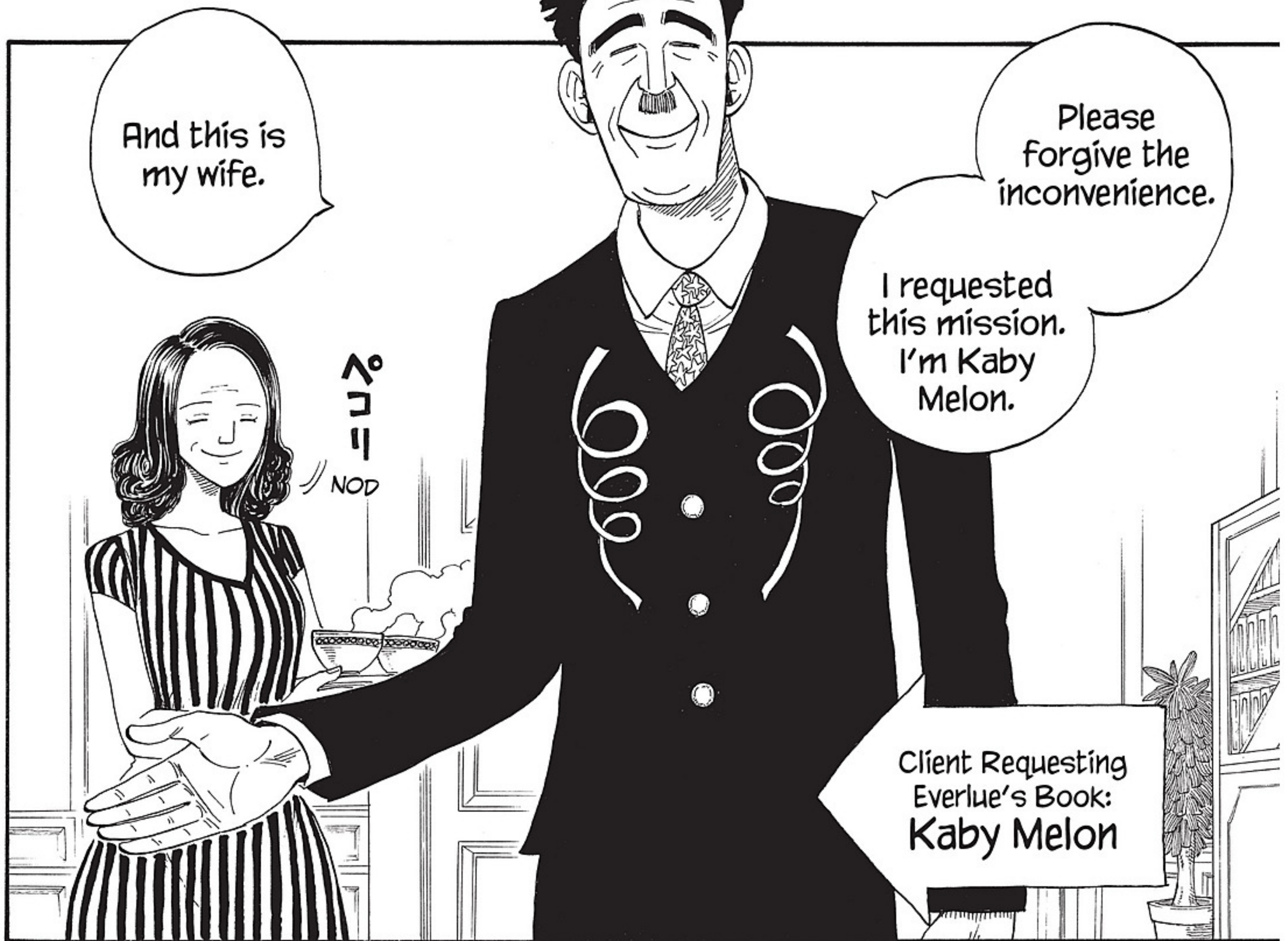
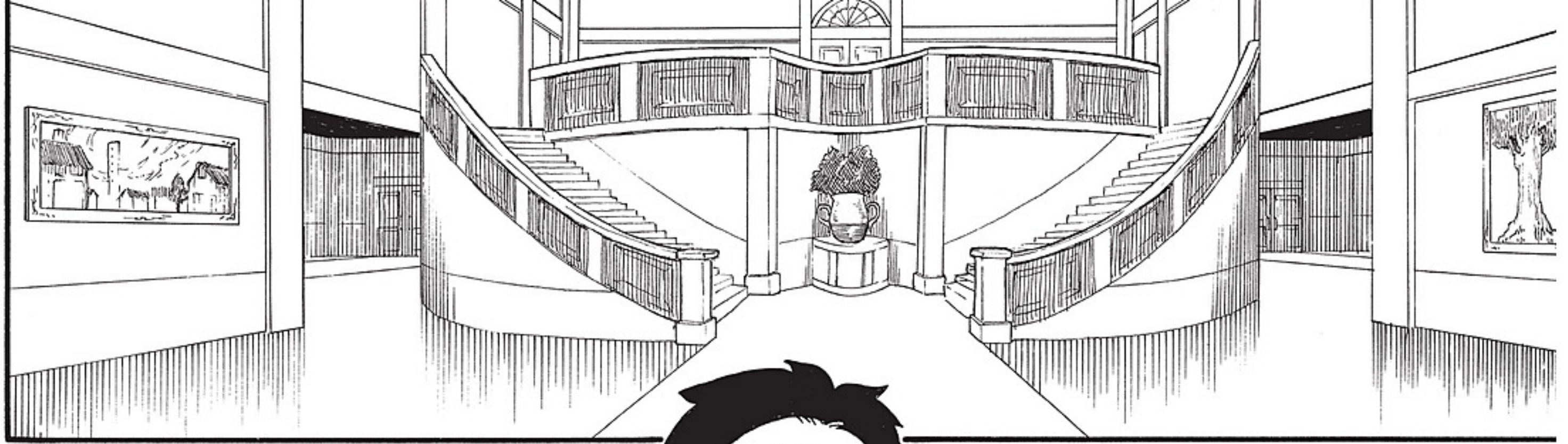
Maid my own hell, page 184

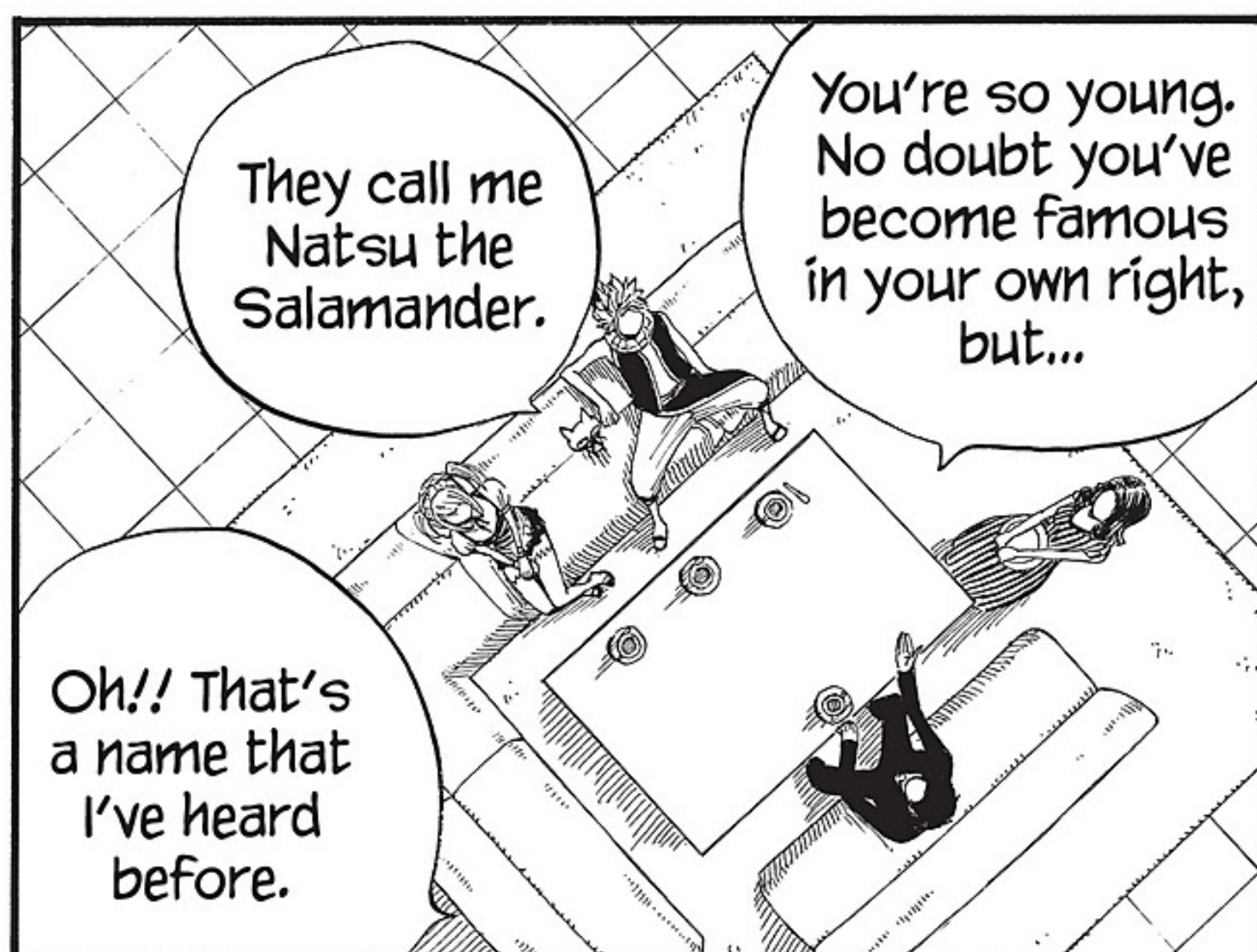
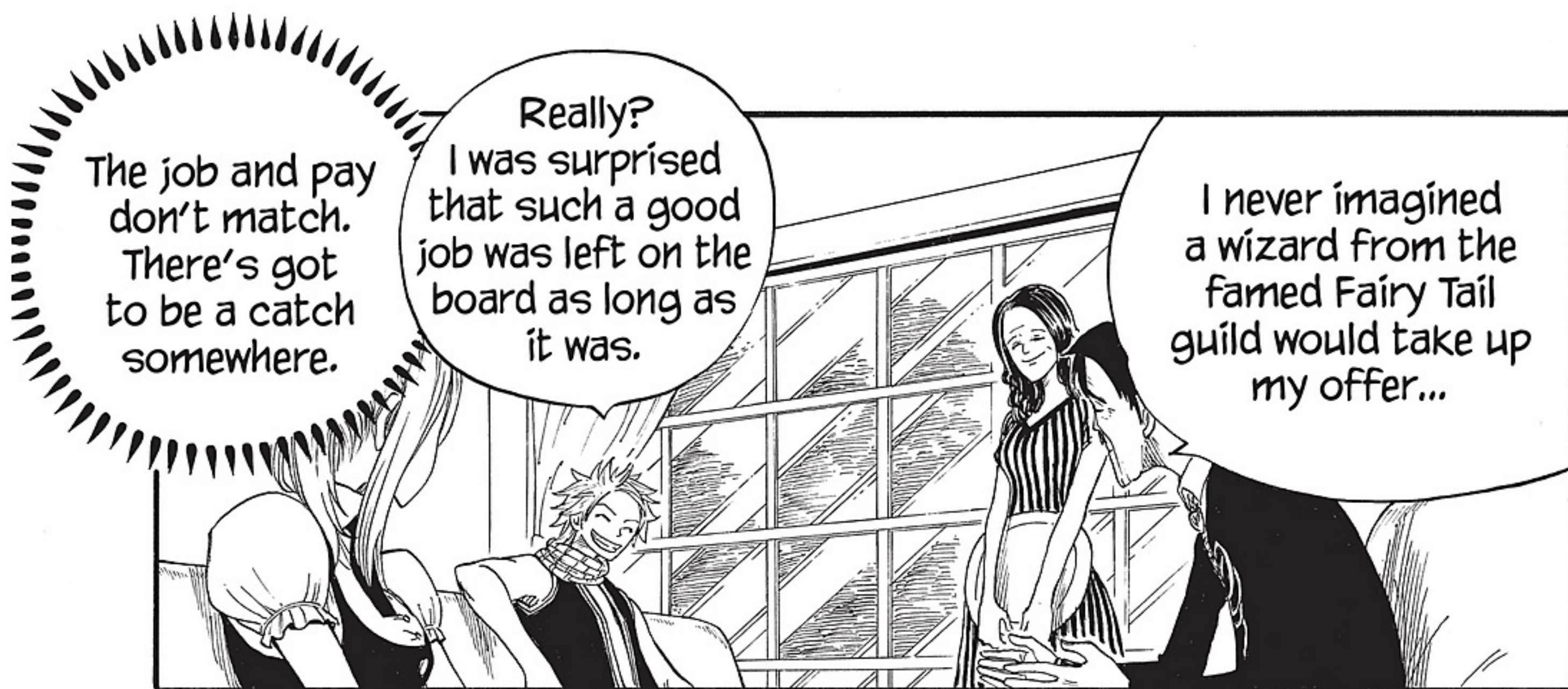
Another pun. In Japanese, one of the words for the underworld is *meido*, which also happens to be the way the Japanese say the English word "maid." I simply took advantage of the fact that "made" and "maid" are homophones in English to make a pun that is still a pretty close equivalent to the Japanese.

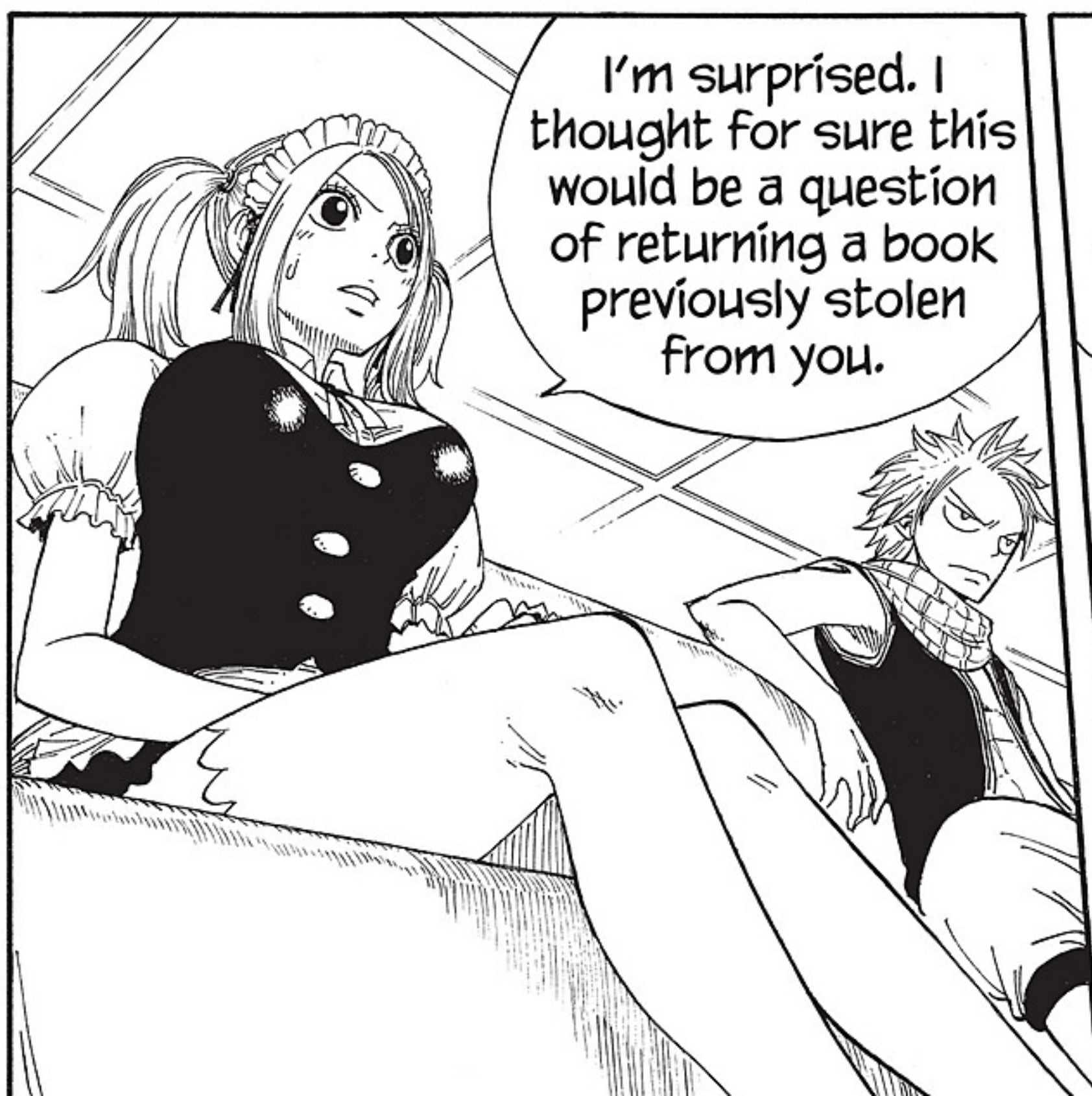
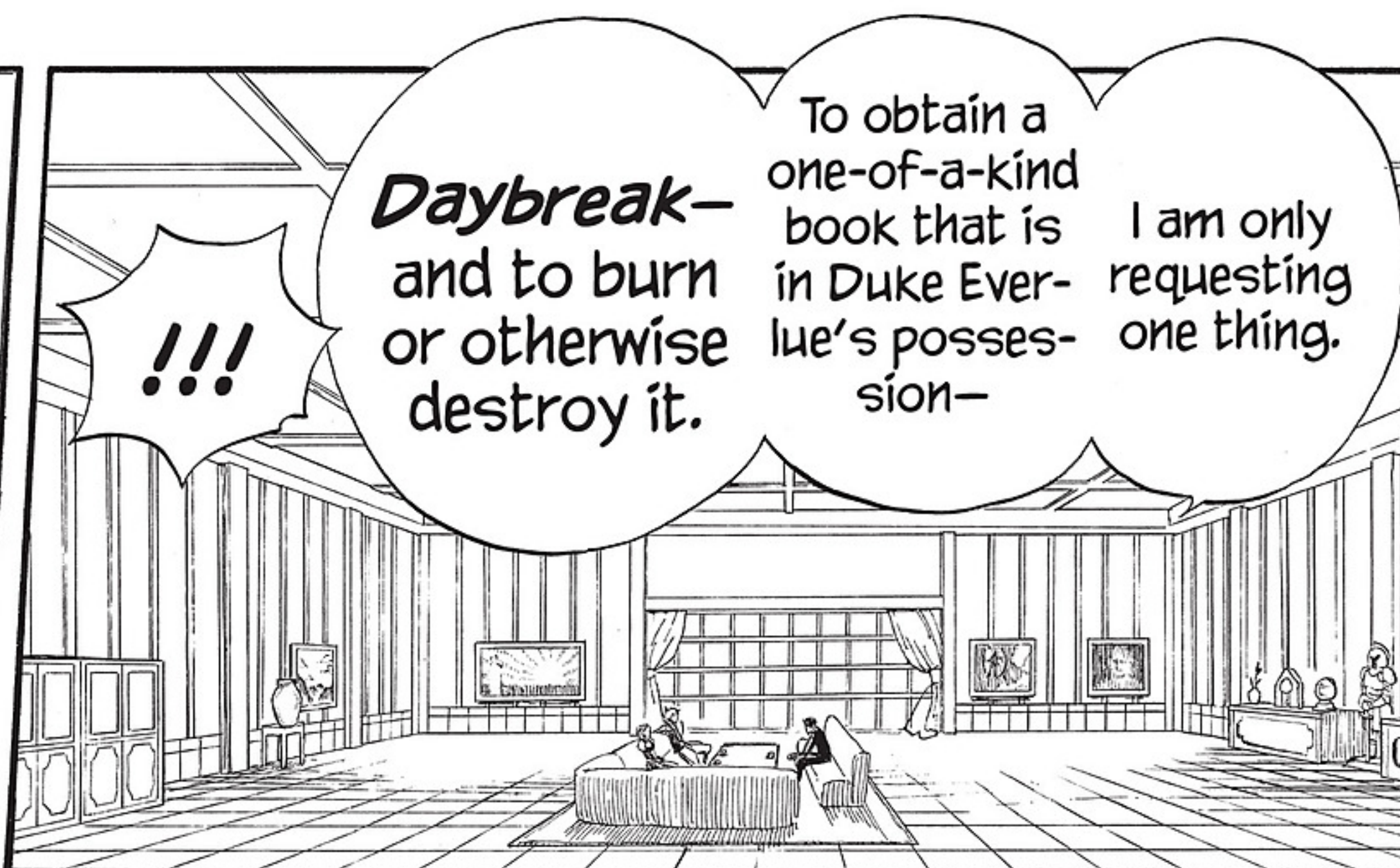
Preview of Volume 2

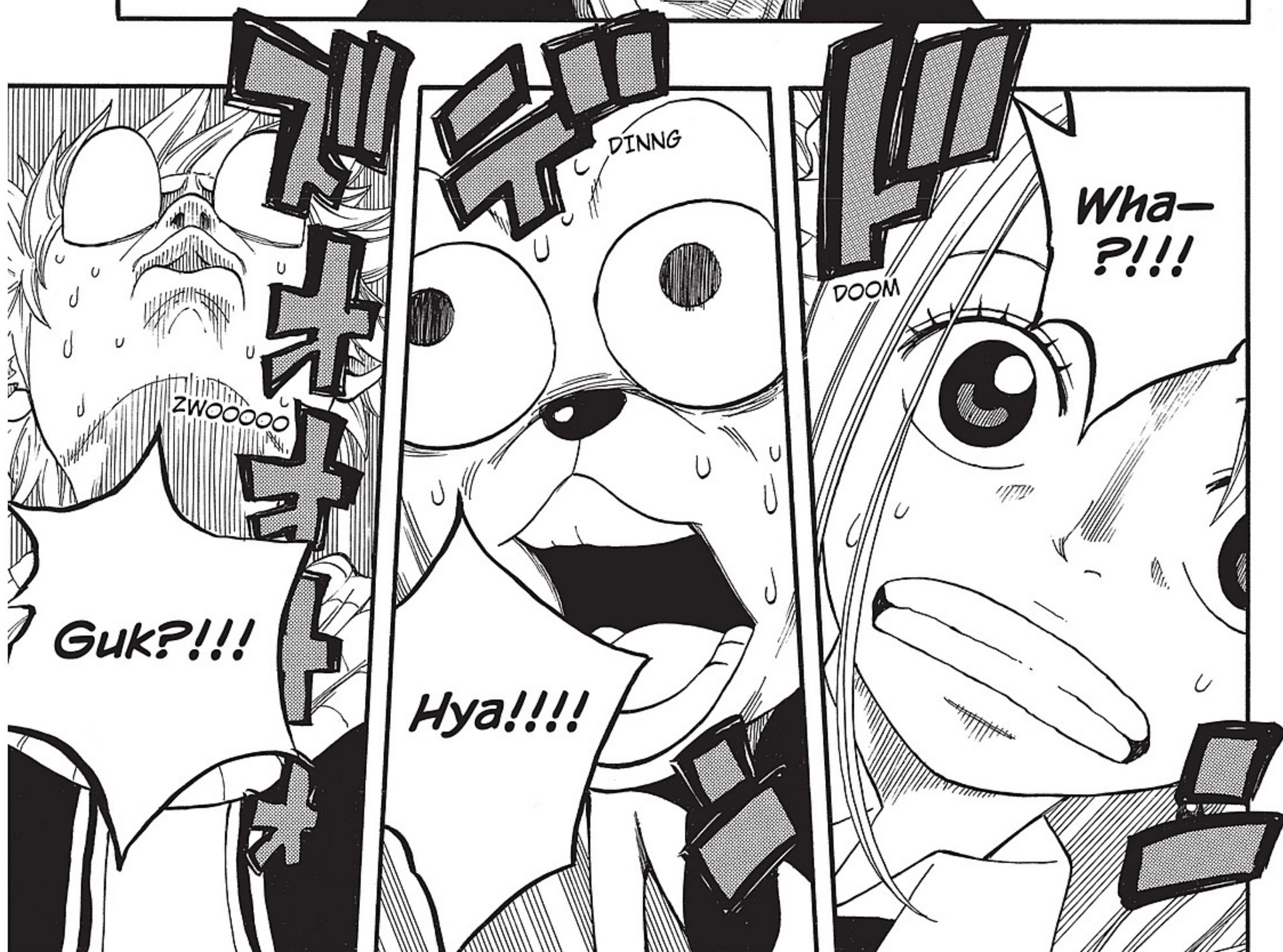
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